# LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

November 19, 2024 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

## Attendance

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| Michael Carter (v) | Jennifer Schultz | Bailey Guido |
| Lane Stratton (v) | Shalom Rorabaugh | Athena Wikstrom |
| Miranda Philibert | Heather Freilinger | Danielle Walker |
| Michael Benson | Jaelynn Luna | |

Please note: For ease of member access, South-Central Early Learning Hub – Lake County Community Governance Council meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

The Lake Community Governance Council reviewed the October and November 2024 minutes. Lane Stratton motioned to approve the September and October 2024 minutes as submitted. Michael Carter seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

**Klamath Family Head Start Lakeview Site –** Shalom Rorabaugh shared that the Klamath Family Head Start Lakeview site is currently full. The program had a shutdown due to a geothermal outage, but there is a backup heating system in the building. Electrical repairs were completed to fix the geothermal heating system. Head Start is planning family engagement activities for the holiday season.

**Lake County Public Health** -- Miranda Philibert shared that Lake County Public Health is beginning pre-immunization work with schools in Lake County before the February school exclusion day. Students who are not current on their immunizations are excluded from school. Children must have all state-required immunizations or a medical or non-medical exemption to attend public and private schools, preschools, childcare facilities, and Head Start programs.

**Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)** - Michael Benson advised that Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) is finishing the first round of referrals received for the 2024-2025 program year. There will be a Federal Count of students enrolled in EI/ECSE services on December 1, 2024. Two of the referrals EI/ECSE received cannot be completed before the December deadline. Six additional referrals have been received and are in process. There are currently fourteen children on Individualized Family Support Plans (IFSPs) across Lake County. The number of children identified in North Lake County has increased.

**Lake County Education Service District (ESD) –** Lane Stratton shared that Lake County ESD is busy supporting schools and students in Lake County. The next legislative budget session is getting ready to begin. There are questions and concerns about funding streams and mandates.

**Take Root Parenting Connection -** Bailey Guido shared that 20 families are receiving Family Engagement Boxes in North Lake, with 72 individuals being served through the engagement boxes. Take Root hosted a Finger-Painting event in Plush. They partnered with the Plush school for space and half of the necessary supplies.

Take Root is developing the Winter Term schedule and is hoping to offer more sensory playdates and expand into additional communities like Paisley and North Lake. If you would like more information about sensory playdates, contact Bailey Guido. Winter Term will also include a virtual dad's group. There will not be a formal agenda or curriculum for the dad's group they will have an experienced facilitator named Michael Findley. With the success of the Tumbling Tots class last summer, additional tumbling classes will be offered to families in the future. Tumbling encourages child enrichment, large play, and parent involvement.

**Honker Preschool** – Jen Schultz advised illness has caused staffing difficulty at Honker Preschool. A solid, long-term substitute has been identified, which should resolve staffing challenges.

Jen presented at a Community of Practice about parenting engagement and shared the parent engagement opportunities Honker Preschool has offered to families in the Preschool Promise program.

The state provided Preschool Promise programs with a new safety checklist. The school district is not required to meet the listed requirements, but Honker Preschool is evaluating their program and developing a list of safety improvements for the site.

Preschool Promise is currently full at Honker Preschool. There is a Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) Request for Application (RFA) available to the South-Central Early Learning Hub region for Preschool Promise slot reallocations. Honker Preschool will be applying for additional Preschool Promise slots through the RFA.

**South-Central Early Learning Hub** – Athena Wikstrom shared more information about the Preschool Promise slot reallocation RFA. The RFA is only available for new and existing Preschool Promise grantees in the South-Central Early Learning Hub. The goal of the RFA is to identify providers and distribute 18 available Preschool Promise slots. If the application meets state guidelines, selected providers will either receive new or additional Preschool Promise slots or be placed on a waitlist to receive slots as they become available in the region.

Danielle provided an overview of Community UPLiFT. Community UPLiFT connects families that are expecting a baby or have children birth to five, or up to 21 years old with special needs, to resources in their community. Families in Lake County requested Community UPLiFT referrals on the Preschool Promise applications, indicating a need for families to be connected to services in Lake County. The Hub is looking for opportunities to add providers who are interested in receiving Community UPLiFT referrals to the data portal. Danielle can provide Community UPLiFT presentations. For more information about Community UPLiFT, contact Danielle at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

The Family Governance Advisory Committee for the South-Central Early Learning Hub received a grant to place Little Free Libraries across the region. The committee is asking for suggestions for placement locations in Lake County that are easily accessible to families. The Family Governance Advisory Committee is interested in providing books to the Honker Preschool Little Free Library the school is building for Miss Gretta.

New legislation banning suspension and expulsion in all early care settings, regardless of how a program is funded, begins July 1, 2026. Douglas ESD applied for a planning and implementation grant to help prepare the region for the new legislation. The South-Central Early Learning Hub will be completing a year-long planning process for the grant and is working closely with CCRR to develop focus groups and a steering committee to guide the process. Athena will be reaching out to community partners to invite them to the focus groups. Focus groups will be facilitated by Heidi McGowan and will be an important part of the planning process. Both the Hub and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) encourage everyone to participate in the focus groups to share the strengths and needs of the community, and how better support for providers can be implemented in the community.

**Care Connections and Education / Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)** – Heather Freilinger shared there are eight child care providers in Lake County. Three Registered Family child care providers, one preschool, two Exempt Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) programs, and two Preschool Promise providers.

Award announcements for a large child care infrastructure grant from The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) were extended from November 22, 2024, to December 2, 2024.

The Regional Inclusion Facilitator, Jaelynn Luna, will attend future Lake County Community Governance Council meetings to provide updates for CCRR. Jaelynn is in the Klamath County office and is dedicated to serving Klamath and Lake Counties. She is also supporting the Spanish child care cohort.

**Additional Business –** Athena shared the South-Central Early Learning Hub's appreciation for the Lake County Community Governance Council with their commitment to attending meetings and being engaged in the work of the Hub.

**Next Meeting:** January 21, 2025, at 1:00 pm. There will be no December meeting.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, the Lake County Community Governance Council was adjourned.