PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 23, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Present: Shawn Massingale, Krystal Sanchez, Karissa Bent, Cady Lyon, Mandy Rigsby, Jen Reid, Hannah Horvath, Kyle Riege, Bryanna Paradice, Michael Carter, Stephanie Cravalho

Staff Present: Athena Wikstrom, Danielle Walker, Charlee Scheer, Gillian Wesenberg, Ronda Osborn, Sarah Wheelock, Robin VanWinkle, Vanessa Pingleton, Heather Sewall

Introduction and approval of November minutes. Cady Lyon made a motion to approve the November minutes as submitted. Krystal Sanchez seconded the motion. No opposition. Motion carried.

Hub Update

Gillian Wesenberg, South Central Early Learning Hub - Dr. Dawn Bailey, Amy King, and Katherine Pears are leading some exciting training opportunities across the region.

The first training opportunity will be with Dr. Dawn Bailey, who has over 25 years of experience working with individuals with emotional/behavioral disorders, autism, and other developmental disabilities. The South-Central Early Learning Hub is funding this opportunity through Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI). There are 20 openings in each county for this training in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. There are two trainings that repeat over two days, Preschool Life Skills and Early Childhood De-Escalation. The trainings are in person and attendees can choose to attend a full day or two half days (mornings or afternoons). Both trainings will provide additional tools to early childhood professionals that can assist in reducing suspension and expulsion in early childhood settings. Funds are available to help cover the cost of substitutes for attendees. Interested individuals are encouraged to register.

The second training opportunity will be with Dr. Amy King, who is a licensed psychologist in Portland, Oregon. Dr. Amy's current work promotes resilience for families, healthcare entities, schools, businesses, and individuals. Dr. Amy is a consultant, coach, and mentor to families, healthcare leaders, teachers, and businesses. Dr. Amy developed a curriculum called Cards for Connection, created especially for professionals working with children and families. This work enhances relational health, resilience through relationships, and social-emotional capacity by training professionals who impact the lives of children. The Cards for Connection training will be one full day focused on trauma and being a trauma responsive provider and two half days that will focus on tools to promote resiliency. Dr. Amy's Cards for Connection training will be held virtually and there are 50 slots for the region, with 12 available in Douglas County.

The third training opportunity is a pilot program provided by Katherine Pears, who is the developer of the Kids in Transition to School (KITS) program, which is run out of the Social Learning Center in Eugene, Oregon. The South-Central Early Learning Hub is providing an opportunity for parents to enroll in Kids in Transition to School (KITS) at Home. KITS at Home is an eight-week online program that provides tools to prepare children for kindergarten. The program focuses on social-emotional learning including sharing, as well as academic learning. Families have an opportunity to win a $75 gift card for providing feedback on the training.

All three training opportunities are free to participants.

Early Learning Hubs (ELH) are still working with the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC), BUILD Initiative. and the Early Learning Council (ELC) to define the roles of Hubs, backbones, and DELC. New rules regarding the roles of different agencies will be coming out in April; the ELC will approve them after review in June.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub will collaborate with Head Starts and School Districts to create a joint advertisement to promote preschool and kindergarten registration again for 2025-2026. Advertisements were successfully coordinated across multiple media platforms in 2024-2025 including radio, newspapers, and social media.

Heidi East McGowan lead focus groups for Every Child Belongs, involving childcare providers, parents, Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education, Education Service Districts, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R), and behavioral health specialists. The region will receive funding to hire a Behavioral Health Consultation for early learning providers. Behavioral Health Consultation aims to support providers in managing behavioral concerns, helping them explore alternatives

before considering suspension or expulsion of children. Summer Swan currently provides this support for Douglas County through a grant from The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF). The intention is to have one organization and an equivalent of one full time employee (FTE) provide Behavioral Health Consultation across Douglas, Klamath, Lake Counties, The Klamath Tribes and the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians. One person responsible for such a large area would require significant travel. Discussions are ongoing about using remote webcams (i.e. OWLS) in classrooms to help the assigned person effectively observe activities. The Hub is consulting with the Oregon Infant Mental Health Association (ORIMHA), DELC, and a consultant from the University of Utah for guidance on this matter.

Athena Wikstrom, South-Central Early Learning Hub-

Two listening sessions were held across the region this week—one with child care providers, including in-home and private child care centers, Head Start, Preschool Promise, and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R), and another with professionals working with children and families, such as behavioral health providers, Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) specialists, and Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) providers. Attendees received a stipend for their time and valuable feedback.

A key topic of discussion was the shortage of mental health and behavioral health specialists across the region. Professionals emphasized the long wait times for behavioral health services, particularly in remote areas like Lake County and parts of Klamath County. This issue is now being escalated to the State level.

Additional topics brought forward during listening sessions were:

- The importance of time and resources.
- The need to build trust between the consultant and providers.
- Whether classroom observations could be done remotely using OWLS – portable meeting cameras that provide 360 degree turning capabilities to follow speakers.
- The person doing Behavioral Health Consultation isn't just checking off boxes without a genuine understanding of the context.
- Implementing training on the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) would ensure that everyone receives universal ASQ training and can effectively pass that knowledge on to the designated resource person.

Karissa Bent, Cobb Children's Learning Center – During the most recent Every Child Belongs State Committee call, the head of the Child Care Licensing Division shared updates on the new suspension and expulsion rules set to be released in 2026. The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) shared insight on the "Every Child Belongs" initiative, emphasizing licensing rules and accountability. While various rule iterations in consideration while DELC's responsibilities are still being finalized.

Initially, 112 applicants were considered for the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention Plan Advisory Committee, now called "Every Child Belongs," with 17 members selected. Gaps in representation have led the Advisory Committee to seek more members.

Guidance shared at the Advisory Committee included that when a suspension or expulsion complaint arises, the Child Care Licensing Division will review the case if a family can demonstrate efforts to collaborate with the provider. Ideally, transitioning a child to another center is preferred over expulsion. However, if a complaint is submitted, an investigation will occur to assess the provider's actions. Depending on the findings, technical assistance may be offered to support improvements in the child care facility.

Concerns were also raised regarding existing K-12 processes. The goal is to create a specialized Early Care and Education (ECE) approach for children ages zero to five rather than simply replicating the K-12 system, while still considering relevant K-12 methods.

Shawn Massingale, Early Head Start/ Head Start- The State Coordinated Enrollment Work Group with DELC consists of Early Learning Hub Directors and Head Start Directors collaborating with a facilitator to improve the enrollment processes for both the Preschool Promise and Head Start programs. The goal is to ensure that both programs are fully enrolled across the state and work together to reach more children.

CCR & R Update

Stephanie Cravalho, Child Care Resource and Referral – The Regional Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R), Care Connections & Education, has two upcoming training events.

The first event will be a Pyramid Model training that will be offered on two separate days, April 11 or April 12. The first half of the day will be Unpacking the Emotional Literacy Kit and The Tucker Turtle Kit, and the second half will be Unpacking the Problem Solver Solution Kit and The Super Friends Kit. Participants will receive one preschool or infant toddler kit per classroom, with a $250 value.

The second training event will be the Spring Fling on May 17. Lisa Murphy, the Ooey Gooey Lady, will be the keynote speaker.

Information about registering for the events will be coming soon.

Legislative Update

Shawn Massingale, Early Head Start/ Head Start- The 2025 legislative session, which began this week and will run through the end of June, will continue to focus on critical issues such as homelessness, behavioral health, and public safety. Key focuses during this session include:

- The Legislature is working on funding K-12 education and the funding formula used.
- The Legislature is also working on the State's transportation infrastructure and the need for more funding for transportation.
- The main push for Oregon State Governor Tina Kotek will be Early Childhood Literacy.
- Oregon State Senator Lisa Reynolds with District 3 is assembling a package of bills termed Momnibus. Senator Reynolds' Momnibus will focus on maternal health and prenatal to five including Doula Support funding and funding for Community Health Workers (CHWs).
- Oregon Pre-Kindergarten (OPK) funding will continue to be a priority. The goal is to maintain at least the number of children currently being served across the state with an inflationary increase.
- Oregon State University has proposed asking for 10 million dollars to strengthen Early Childhood Education (ECE) college programs statewide because of the shortage of qualified childcare staff. This would increase funding for early childhood scholarships and the early childhood behavioral health workforce.
- The State Legislature is working on a bill to provide additional funding for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE). More information will be available later.
- The State Legislature is also working on a bill to allow center-based childcare programs to be located in residential zones when co-located with low-income housing, churches, or community centers.

Partner Update

Cady Lyon, United Community Action Network (UCAN) - Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) funds are state-provided resources allocated through Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) to deliver community services like housing, utilities, food, and case management. United Community Action Network (UCAN) received capacity-building grants to establish systems and meet program requirements, including additional funds from All Care CCO. These services are available for Umpqua Health Alliance (UHA) members, with community partners serving as entry points. Weatherization and home repair projects have been started under this grant.

Athena Wikstrom, South-Central Early Learning Hub – The first Family Governance Advisory Committee Little Library, made possible with funding received from a grant through the South-Central Early Learning Hub's Zero to Five Early Literacy Plan, was set up yesterday at the Fish Food Pantry in North Roseburg. Families can pick up food and receive an early literacy book.
Preschool Promise received an intent to award for Days Creek Charter School for 12 Preschool Promise slots. The contract must be carried out before the Hub can begin taking applications and placing children. There are still six remaining slots that have not yet been allocated within the South-Central Early Learning Hub region.

Kyle Riege, Family Relief Nursery – Family Relief Nursery will be hosting a Gala on April 5 to assist with expenses at the nursery.

Robin Van Winkle, Douglas ESD – Business Champions for Kids is holding its second annual Employer Summit on May 1 at Aviva Health. The Summit will discuss how some employers have been able to provide child care support to employees and options for employers who do not have the resources to do so.

The Douglas County Child Care Coalition still has funds available to support individuals entering the child care workforce who work directly with children by offering bonuses ranging from $500 to over $2,000. New centers

can receive a $5,000 bonus. This is being done in Douglas County, and funding was recently received at the end of last year to expand this program to Klamath and Lake Counties.

Preparations are being made for the Home Visiting Leadership Gathering on April 21 from 10:00 – to 4:00. The Ford Family Foundation will provide lunch. Heidi East McGowen, the Center for Coordinating Oregon's Home Visiting (CCOHVS), Portland State University (PSU), and someone from The Ford Family Foundation will be in attendance.

Vanessa Pingleton, Home Visiting Systems Coordinator and Take Root Parenting Connections – A steering meeting occurred between The Ford Family Foundation and the Center for Coordinating Oregon's Home Visiting System (CCOHVS). The Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) grants previously provided through The Ford Family Foundation are transitioning and will be granted through CCOHVS. The Ford Family Foundation will fund the grants through CCOHVS for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The region has accomplished outstanding work, particularly through the HVSC Project. This initiative has been recognized by other regions and CCOHVS, who have used the South-Central Early Learning Hub's model as an example while onboarding new regions.

Preparations are being made for the Home Visiting Leadership Gathering on April 21 from 10:00 – to 4:00. The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) will provide lunch. Heidi East McGowen, the Center for Coordinating Oregon's Home Visiting (CCOHVS), Portland State University (PSU), and someone from TFFF will be in attendance.

Sarah Wheelock, Take Root Parenting Connections – Take Root is looking for input from community partners and parents on ways to provide support and services that meet the vision of everyone. Upcoming workshops and classes include:

- Conscious Discipline – 1871 NE Stephens, Roseburg, Tuesdays, January 28 – March 18, 5:30 – 8:00
- Make Parenting a Pleasure - Virtual, Thursdays, January 28 – April 1, 6:00 – 7:00
- Autism from the Inside Out - 1871 NE Stephens, Roseburg, Thursday, January 30, 5:30 – 7:30
- Love Languages Virtual Workshop - Virtual, Wednesday, March 12, 4:00 – 5:30
- Big Behaviors Virtual Workshop - Virtual, Thursday, March 20, 6:00 – 7:00

Krystal Sanchez, Migrant Education—Migrant Education already serves 60 students between Douglas and Lane Counties. A task force has been established in Lane County to work with school districts to provide support to families facing insecurities. Family preparedness packets are being distributed to Douglas and Lane County families to ensure they are aware of their rights. Migrant Education also provides mental health resources to help adults talk to students; many students are anxious about what's being reported in the media regarding immigration. Staff are being trained as notaries, so assistance can be given to families in creating notarized family plans. This ensures students know where to go if something happens to their caregivers.

Colleen May-Weir, United Community Action Network (UCAN) – UCAN received a grant to provide Family Connects Oregon in Douglas County. Family Connects Oregon is a universal nurse home visiting program approved by the State Legislature and run through the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). This program will start in February for Douglas County. Family Connects is open to anyone with a baby born on or after February 1. 2025, in Douglas County and provides 1-3 intensive nurse home visits. It doesn't have to be a first child. Nurses go into homes to provide post-partum assessment and weigh and measure the baby. The nurses will look for post-partum depression and signs of abuse or neglect and provide breastfeeding support. Based on the assessed need, nurses can refer families to other resources like Healthy Families, Women Infants and Children (WIC), utility assistance, Head Start, etc.

UCAN has several events coming up. Some upcoming events are as follows:

- Feeding Umpqua will be doing Cheese and Thank You in March.
- There will be bowl painting parties every first Thursday; participants are asked to bring their own bowl and an appetizer to share. Seating is available for 13 participants at a time.
- Little Brother's Pub will host a game night on the second Thursday of every month as a fundraiser for the Feeding Umpqua food bank.
- Dutch Love will be on February 13; one dollar from every coffee purchased will go to Feeding Umpqua.
- The diaper bank through WIC still has diapers available; participants do not need to be on WIC to receive diapers.
- Healthy Families received a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) grant through Umpqua Health Alliance (UHA). This grant will help provide families with safety items like pack-and-plays, car seats,

highchairs, or sliding gates. Families are asked to complete and sign paperwork stating that they will not sell any of the items, and if the item is not working out for them, they can exchange it or just return it. Families will also be limited in what they get; in this way, the same family does not come multiple times a year because the grant only provides so much funding.

- Healthy Families will receive the last shipment of six pallets of diapers at the end of January 2025. However, other available funding allowed Healthy Families to purchase a large stockpile of diapers.

Brianna Paradise, Healthy Families – Healthy Families is down a Home Visiting Nurse and is only taking priority cases now. The hope is to have the new position posted by February 1.

Karissa Bent, Cobb Children's Learning Center – Cobb Children's Learning Center just received a donation of four acres, and work is being done on rezoning that property.

Heather Sewell, Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) – Work is underway to transition 164 students from the ECSE program which serves three- to five-year-olds to kindergarten in the fall. Currently, there are 108 children in the EI, birth to three-year-old, program.

The tier one classroom at Eastwood Elementary is changing for the students with social/emotional and behavioral challenges; some of these students have been expelled from community sites, so it was decided to bring a more therapeutic component to the classroom. Nicole, the new behavioral consultant, recently graduated with a master's in counseling and can provide counseling and direct support to those students and families. That classroom is also being restructured so that the class size is smaller, and there will be more individual, direct, social, and emotional support.

Ronda Osborn, South-Central Early Learning Hub – Preschool Promise, a free, high-quality preschool program that serves three and four-year-olds, takes applications all year round. Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are not open yet. Gilchrist and the YMCA each have an opening in Klamath County.

Community UPLiFT referrals have slowed down.

Danielle Walker, South-Central Early Learning Hub – In-person or virtual presentations on Community UPLiFT are available for anyone interested in learning about our program or just looking for a refresher. Please contact either Danielle Walker at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.or.us 541-880-4655 or Ronda Osborn at ronda.osborn@douglasesd.or.us 541-670-5964.

Jen Reid, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians – If any organizations are serving Cow Creek youth or households, please reach out to see if there are ways to partner together to help these families.

Shawn Massingale, Early Head Start/ Head Start- Head Start received funding to open another Oregon Pre-Kindergarten (OPK)-funded classroom. The classroom will be half days in Winston. Head Start has hired a teacher and is trying to hire assistants. The hope is to be open by the end of February.

- Head Start (ages three to five) will begin taking applications for the 2025-2026 school year in February.
- Early Head Start (ages 6 weeks to three years) takes applications all year long.
- Glide Preschool Promise currently has three openings. The Glide site will be moving to a new location in October.
- Head Start is partnering with Take Root on the Conscious Discipline training.
- Head Start is also doing a Get Ready for Kindergarten class with families next week.

Next Meeting Date

February 27, 2025, from 10:00 am-12:00 pm