

# LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

January 21, 2024 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

## Attendance

Michael Carter (v)  
Lane Stratton (v)  
Miranda Philibert  
Michael Benson

Jennifer Schultz  
Shalom Rorabaugh  
Gail Buermann  
Marsha LaVerne

Heidi Martinez  
Gillian Wesenberg  
Danielle Walker

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 November minutes. Lane Stratton motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Michael Carter seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

**Honker Preschool** – Jen Shulze mentioned that Lakeview School District #7 has applied to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) for additional Preschool Promise slots but has yet to receive a response from the state. Honker is also awaiting information on Preschool Promise grant renewals from DELIC. Shalom will follow up to check for updates from DELIC or Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) regarding the grant renewals.

Currently, the Honker Preschool Promise program is full. Honker Preschool is collaborating with Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) to schedule kindergarten transition meetings for students with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) who will be transitioning to kindergarten for the 2025-2026 year. The tentative date for these transition meetings is April 9, 2025.

**Klamath Family Head Start - Lakeview Site** – Shalom Rorabaugh reported challenges in keeping preschool slots filled this year. Currently, there is one available spot in the Preschool Promise program at Klamath Family Head Start, Lakeview Site. Additionally, a few students from Lake County will be moving to Klamath County in February, which will open more slots.

Three teachers are currently on Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), but the program continues to manage daily operations despite the staffing shortage.

Klamath Family Head Start is preparing for its self-assessment and parent surveys as part of the renewal process for Head Start programs. The results from these assessments and surveys will guide planning for the upcoming school year. So far, they have found that many families in Lake County are interested in half-day preschool options and that there has been an increase in early care and education providers increasing child care and preschool availability in the area.

Several children will be transitioning from Head Start to kindergarten in the 2025-2026 year.

**South-Central Early Learning Hub** – Danielle Walker provided updates on Community UPLIFT, noting that referrals can now be requested when filling out the Preschool Promise application. The South-Central Early Learning Hub sees a significant number of requests from Lake County, indicating a need for additional connections to community resources in Lake County and across the Hub region.

Community UPLIFT serves expecting families, families with children ages 0-5, and youth up to age 21 with special needs in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. Referrals can be made by organizations or through self-referral via:

- Website: [community-uplift.com](https://community-uplift.com)

- Text: Send the keyword “uplift3” to (541) 351-3100
- Fax: Initial Referral Form / Brochure
- QR Code: Available on brochures and marketing materials

The Community UPLiFT initial referral form is available in over 100 languages on the community-uplift.com site, enabling families and providers to complete it in their preferred language. UPLiFT utilizes a secure database to store and transmit referrals to providers who accept them. Both the database and referral process are fully compliant with HIPAA and FERPA regulations.

Once a referral is received, a Family Resource Facilitator reaches out to the family, conducts a questionnaire using motivational interviewing techniques, and offers referrals based on social determinants of health. Families have full autonomy to accept or decline referrals. The closed-loop process ensures that the original referral source receives updates on the referral status.

For questions or presentation requests, contact Danielle Walker at [Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us) or (541) 880-4655.

Gillian Wesenberg shared that Early Learning Hubs continue to collaborate with the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), the Early Learning Council (ELC), and BUILD (a national research organization) to define the role of Early Learning Hubs, clarify the responsibilities of backbone organizations, and enhance cross-sector collaboration. New ELC guidelines—based on this collective work—will be released soon.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub contracted Dr. Amy King to provide virtual Cards for Connection training, offering intervention strategies for managing challenging child behaviors. The training has a capacity of 50 participants for the region and will be held on Friday afternoons. Finalized dates and registration information are coming soon.

Additionally, Dr. Dawn Bailey will lead a two-day in-person training on Preschool Life Skills and De-Escalation Strategies, scheduled for February 3-4, 2025, in Lake County. Dr. Bailey, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D) with over 25 years of experience designing behavioral and learning programs for individuals with emotional/behavioral disorders, autism, and other developmental disabilities, will lead the sessions. The de-escalation portion of the training will provide tools and evidence-based techniques for safe crisis prevention and management. The Preschool Life Skills portion will focus on instruction-following skills, functional communication skills, tolerance skills, and friendship skills.

The Hub will also offer Kids in Transition to School (KITS) training for families of incoming kindergarteners who have not attended preschool. KITS is an eight-week online program designed to help parents prepare their children for school readiness. The program incorporates learning experiences into everyday activities to create meaningful learning opportunities without being overly intensive for families to implement. KITS is research-based and supported by six years of data collection and experience from the Oregon Social Learning Center.

**Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)** - Michael Benson reported that EI/ECSE currently supports 16 children with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs). Additionally, five children are in the referral process and are expected to qualify for EI/ECSE services, while four children are being monitored and may enter the referral process. Kindergarten transition meetings are in the process of being scheduled.

**Outback Strong** – Heidi Martinez shared that Lake District Behavioral Health officially separated from Lake District Hospital on January 1, 2025, and is now operating as Outback Strong. Services remain unchanged for clients, and from the public’s perspective, only the name has changed. Most changes are

internal, including revisions to Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), which will require new signatures from community partners.

**Lake County Public Health** - Miranda Philibert shared that School Inclusion Day for vaccinations is scheduled for February 19, 2025. Public Health is working closely with schools to ensure compliance. New for the 2025-2026 school year: Families must provide proof of their child's chickenpox vaccination.

**Lake County Library** - Marsha Richmond advised that the Lakeview Branch will host a Stuffed Animal Sleepover Story Time on Friday at 5:00 PM. Children will drop off their stuffed animals for a bedtime story; the animals will stay overnight at the library, and children can pick them up the next day along with photos of their animals' overnight adventures.

On the first Friday of each month, the library hosts LEGO activities at different times for different age groups. Additionally, Storytime sessions for young children are held every Friday at 10:15 AM.

The library now offers new STEAM and phonics kits for parents to check out.

**Next Meeting:** February 25, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

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