# KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

January 22, 2024 | 10:00 AM – Noon

## Attendance

Bethany Holmes
Bryanna Paradice
David Lev
Dena Haudenshild
Jennifer Jackson
Kathleen Walker-Henderson
Maurita Johnson
Megan Grayson
Melissa Dorsey
Sarah Engelgau
Sherie Torralba
Gillian Wesenberg
Vanessa Pingleton
Amber Singh
Athena Wikstrom
Ronda Osborn
Danielle Walker

Please note: For ease of member access, South-Central Early Learning Hub – Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

## Welcome and Introduction

The Klamath PAC reviewed and approved the November 2024 minutes. Kathleen Walker-Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. All agreed. No further discussion. Motion passed.

## South-Central Early Learning Hub Update

The Regional Governance Council (RGC) approved funding for three projects through a one-year Early Literacy grant from the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC), as announced by Gillian Wesenberg. The funded projects include:

**I. Professional Development Training with Dr. Dawn Bailey**

Dr. Dawn Bailey will lead a two-day, in-person professional development training for early care and education professionals, including child care providers, preschool teachers, and kindergarten teachers, in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake counties. The Klamath County session is scheduled for *February 10-11, 2025.

A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D) with over 25 years of experience, Dr. Bailey specializes in designing behavioral and learning programs for individuals with emotional and behavioral disorders, autism, and other developmental disabilities. Her training will focus on de-escalation strategies, equipping participants with evidence-based techniques for crisis prevention and management. The Preschool Life Skills component will emphasize instruction-following, functional communication, tolerance, and friendship-building skills.

Space for Dr. Bailey's training is limited. If registrations exceed capacity, priority will be given to early learning professionals, and attendance may be restricted to one or two individuals per organization. To support those working with children during the day, the Hub has allocated funding for substitute teacher costs, ensuring greater accessibility.

**II. Kids in Transition to School (KITS) Program**

The Hub will offer the Kids in Transition to School (KITS) program for families of incoming kindergarteners who have not attended preschool. KITS is an eight-week online program designed to support school readiness by integrating learning experiences into everyday activities. The program is research-based and backed by six years of data collection and experience from the Oregon Social Learning Center.

**III. Cards for Connection Training with Dr. Amy King**

The South-Central Early Learning Hub contracted Dr. Amy King to provide virtual Cards for Connection training, which offers intervention strategies for managing challenging child behaviors. The training, open to 50 participants across the region, will take place on Friday afternoons. Finalized dates and registration details will be announced soon.

*Dr. Dawn Bailey Training re-scheduled for March 31 and April 1, 2025

Gillian Wesenberg also shared that Early Learning Hubs continue to collaborate with DELC, 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 these collective efforts, will be released soon.

The new legislative policy prohibiting suspension and expulsion in child care settings will take effect on July 1, 2026. Douglas ESD received a two-year grant to support the planning of this initiative, now called Every Child Belongs. This initiative is being implemented in partnership with Oregon Infant Mental Health Association (ORIMHA), DELC, and a researcher at the University of Utah. The Hub will lead the planning efforts in the first year, with implementation set to begin in the second year of the grant which is currently through Douglas ESD.

As part of the planning process, the Hub contracted with Heidi East McGowan to facilitate listening sessions for families, child care providers, and other community partners. These sessions have been completed, and the insights gathered will be shared as soon as they are available.

Through Every Child Belongs, each hub region, regardless of size, will receive funding for one full-time behavior specialist. Behavior specialists will provide consultation services to child care providers facing behavioral challenges, aiming to prevent suspension and expulsion. While some details are still being determined, the steering committee will continue to meet and develop recommendations throughout the grant planning phase. Additional updates will be provided as the process moves forward.

## Partner Updates

**Preschool Promise – Danielle Walker** – The South-Central Early Learning Hub is still accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year, with two openings currently available at Gilchrist and one opening at The YMCA of Klamath Falls. Eligible students must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1 of the school year, be residents of Oregon, and have a family income of up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). We encourage families who believe they may exceed the income limit to still apply. To apply, visit: southcentralhubenrollment.com or contact us by phone at (541) 957-4809.

Additionally, the Hub is in the process of updating the application for the 2025-2026 school year and is awaiting approval from the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) before releasing the new application to interested applicants.

**Community UPLiFT – Danielle Walker --** Community UPLiFT connects expecting families and families with children aged 0-5 or up to 21 with special needs to resources in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. Online referrals can be completed at http://www.community-uplift.com/ or via smartphone by texting the keyword “uplift1” to (541) 351-3100. The Community UPLiFT initial referral form is available in over 100 languages on the website, enabling families and providers to complete the Community UPLiFT initial referral in their preferred language.

Community 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 will reach out to the family, conduct a questionnaire using motivational interviewing techniques, and provide referrals based on social determinants of health (SDOH). Families have full autonomy to accept or decline referrals.

Community UPLiFT operates as a closed-loop process, meaning that once a referral is completed, the Family Resource Facilitator provides an update to the referring agency to ensure that the original referral source receives updates on the referral status. For more information about Community UPLiFT, please contact Danielle Walker at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Community UPLiFT also has a 30-second public service announcement available at the following links:

- Spanish subtitles
- English subtitles

**The Klamath Tribes –** Jennifer Jackson and Sherie Torralba **–** The Klamath Tribes Education Department has Grow Your Own funding available for educators (teachers, child care providers, and alternative classroom educators) in

Klamath County. This funding can provide classroom materials, books, and other supplies to enhance classroom resources.

To be eligible for funding, educators must be enrolled members of the Klamath Tribes or another Federally Recognized Tribe, or be descendants with a Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) from a qualifying Federally Recognized Tribe. The Grow Your Own program will also support any school district educators teaching the Tribal History/Shared History (THSH) curriculum in the 4th, 8th, and 10th grades.

For more information, please contact the Klamath Tribes Education Department: Ariala Blackwater at Aralia.blackwater@klamathtribes.com or Sheea Scott at Sheea.Scott@klamathtribes.com.

**Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) –** Vanessa Pingleton – HVSC Coordinators recently met with The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) and the Center for Coordination of Oregon's Home Visiting Systems (CCOHVS) at Portland State University (PSU), to discuss the transition of Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) funding from TFFF to CCOHVS. TFFF will be stepping back and CCOHVS will be guiding the work moving forward.

A Home Visiting Family Support Gathering has been scheduled for April 21, 2025 in Medford, OR. Travel will be covered by TFFF, and lunch will be provided at the gathering. The gathering will focus on past work, future initiatives, and celebrating Home Visitors and the hard work they do.

**Care Connections and Education / Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) –** Amber Singh – Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) has released their winter bulletin. The second year of the Strong Start Network has commenced, with 11 new providers participating in the cohort. Members of the Strong Start Network receive approximately 24 hours of free professional development training throughout the year.

The Spring Fling event is scheduled for March 15 at Klamath Community College (KCC), featuring keynote speaker Sharron Krull, the founder of PlayPower.

Additionally, the first round of funding for the Childcare Infrastructure Grant has been completed. Five recipients across the region were awarded a total of just under $800,000. The grant will reopen for applications, although the release date has not yet been determined.

**Safe Families for Children – Bethany Holmes –** Safe Families for Children is hiring a Case Manager to assist with intakes, volunteer vetting, connecting parents with mentors, and coordinating activities for volunteers. If you know anyone who may be interested in the position, please have them send their resume to Bethany at bethany.h@hwam.org.

## Next Meeting:

February 26, 2025, from 10 am to noon.