

South-Central Oregon Early Learning Hub Douglas County Community Governance Council

*October 1, 2024
4:30-6:00pm*

Minutes

Council Members:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Schenewerk, <i>Faith Representative (Chair)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analicia Nicholson, <i>ESD Superintendent</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Gianotti, <i>School Superintendent</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Reid, <i>Cow Creek Representative</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Janel Sorenson, <i>School Representative</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> KC Bolton, <i>Medical Representative</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shawn Massingale, <i>Professional Advisory Chair</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandy Rigsby, <i>Home Visiting Representative</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Peggy Whalen, <i>Non-Profit Executive Director</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rionna Ruley, <i>Early Learning Director</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Erin Helgren, <i>School Principal</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Dannenhoffer, <i>Medical Representative</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Brandi Medeliros, <i>Business</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cady Lyon, <i>CCO Representative</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Desta Walsh, <i>ODHS Director</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Jared Cordon, <i>School Superintendent</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marsha LaVerne, <i>Non-Profit Director</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tim Allen, <i>Business</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Marta Queant, <i>Speech Specialist</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Rachel Pokrandt, <i>Community College President</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Theresa Haga, <i>Business</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marsha LaVerne, <i>Family Development Center</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Analuz Torres, <i>OHA Representative</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Bryan Trenkle, <i>Non-Profit Director</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Chellsey Maher, <i>Parent Representative</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Jacqueline Salas, <i>OHA Representative</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Joe La Fountaine, <i>School Superintendent</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lehi Dowell, <i>Business</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary King, <i>Parent Representative</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Rick Burton, <i>Retired Educator / Consultant</i> |
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Staff Present: Athena Wikstrom, Heather Freiling, Gillian Wesenberg, Windy Digby

Others Present: Heidi East McGowan, Rionna Ruley

Topic	Discussion	Decisions/Action/Next Steps
Approve May 21st, 2024 Minutes	Steve entertained a motion to approve minutes from the May 21 st , 2024. There were no objections.	Motion: Shawn Massingale Second: Windy Digby

*Early Learning Hub
Update-Gillian Wesenberg
& Athena Wikstrom*

KPI Update:

Gillian shared that the Hub put out a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) and Zero to Five Early Literacy Grants. The South-Central Early Learning Hub received several good applications.

The Hub received applications and grant funding was approved for United Community Action Network (UCAN), Winston-Dillard School District, and Roseburg School District.

The Oregon Department of Education has put out an early literacy grant opportunity. Applications are due by October 31st.

[State of Oregon - Bid Solicitation \(oregonbuys.gov\)](https://oregonbuys.gov)

Community UPLiFT:

Athena shared that Community UPLiFT is the Hub's closed loop referral program that connects families with resources in our community. This program assists families with children 0-5 or up to 21 if they have children with special needs. Last year, the South-Central Early Learning Hub added a question on our Preschool Promise application that asked if families would like to be connected with resources in the community, including Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education.

Athena shared that Community UPLiFT is receiving consistent referrals. The program is continuing to grow and is over 1,400 referrals since Community UPLiFT's inception in 2017. There is no limit on how many times a family can utilize the Community UPLiFT referral program, and there have been several families who have been connected with resources three to four times.

Preschool Promise:

The South-Central Early Learning Hub is still accepting Preschool Promise applications and there is some availability in Douglas County.

Athena shared that there was a Request for Application that went out through the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) as one of our

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	<p>providers chose not to continue Preschool Promise in the Roseburg area. The South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) received a lot of feedback from families and community partners that there is a need for Preschool Promise sites in Roseburg, Days Creek, and the Southern Douglas County area. This feedback has been shared with DELC, and Roseburg, Days Creek, Riddle, and Canyonville were recommended to DELC as priority areas for the 18 available slots to be reallocated. Currently, the request for application has closed and no one in those areas has received awards. SCELH staff let DELC know that it is important to the region that another RFA is released so that families can receive services in the areas they have identified. DELC has advised that a new RFA could be a few months out.</p> <p>Rionna inquired about a potential waitlist for additional Preschool Promise slots for existing sites. Gillian shared that there is a waitlist, which includes UCAN, Lakeview School District, and Klamath City Schools. Gillian shared that the waitlist was determined by a scoring system through the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC). If a site was at a certain score or within the scoring range, they were able to be added to the waitlist for additional slots.</p> <p>Shawn shared that they did receive their scores. Heather said that the scoring was not very clear as there were two reviewers.</p> <p>Rionna stated that she feels there is an opportunity to assist new programs with their applications/grant writing to help bolster their applications.</p> <p>Family Governance Advisory Committee: Gillian shared that our Family Governance Advisory Committee is doing well and just received a grant to fund little free libraries across areas in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties that do not currently have easy</p>	

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	<p>access to libraries. Athena assisted the group by answering questions about the grant and application process.</p>	
<p><i>Legislative Update-Gillian Wesenberg</i></p>	<p>Gillian shared DELC Policy Option Packages (POPs) that were submitted to the Governor for consideration in the creation of the recommended state budget. Once the Governor creates the recommended state budget, it is then passed to the legislature for review, updates, and implementation. The POPs that were submitted to the Governor are:</p> <p>POP 101: \$5.7 million for agency operations staff POP 105: \$3.1 million for childcare licensure staff (to reduce ratio to recommended 1 licensur for every 50 childcare providers) POP 580: \$25 million for Early Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dolly Parton Imagination Library • Early Learning & Kindergarten Guidelines revision and professional development • Other investments to be determined <p>The Governor’s office determines items that can be included in an Agency Request Budget (ARB). Partners have identified priorities that are not able to be included in DELC’s ARB. These priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention • Workforce Supports and Addressing House Bill (HB) 2991 • Employment Related Day Care • Tribal Early Learning • Family Child Care Provider Health Coverage • Continued Need for Access to DELC Programs <p>Athena also shared that “Momnibus” is a bill that Representative Lisa Reynolds has created and is sponsoring. Home Visiting was removed from the priorities listed in Momnibus. There is a virtual roundtable led by Representative Reynolds on October 10th from 4:00-5:00pm. More information on Momnibus can be found at: <u>Representative Lisa Reynolds momnibus (oregonlegislature.gov)</u></p>	

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	<p>Rionna shared that the union is advocating for Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) to be well-funded. Currently, families applying for ERDC are placed on a waiting list with a few exceptions including families enrolled in Head Start and families receiving ERDC. Families are struggling to pay Family Child Care professionals without access to ERDC.</p> <p>Windy from Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) shared they are doing as well as can be expected with current funding. EI/ECSE is underfunded, and there is a possibility of receiving additional funding. Windy is not sure where additional funding would come from, yet.</p>	
<p><i>Suspension and Expulsion Planning Grant- Heidi East McGowen & Gillian Wesenberg</i></p>	<p>Gillian shared that DELC previously put out a Request for Application for Hub regions interested in receiving more help around the suspension and expulsion prevention program. Beginning July 2026, no early learning program, including child care providers, can suspend or expel a child. Currently, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) is funded to provide coaching and technical assistance for programs dealing with suspension and expulsion questions.</p> <p>CCRR provides multiple levels of support to child care providers. The first level of support is making sure classes have what they need to support children, which could include observations in the classroom and recommendations to the provider. The next level of support is classroom observations and coaching. There are two Preschool Promise Specialists with the CCRR, one in Douglas County and one in Klamath County. The Preschool Promise Specialist in Klamath County also supports Lake County. The third level of support is bringing out a mental health specialist to the child care. When there are behavioral concerns, the specialist assesses the environment and teacher skills and provides technical assistance (TA). CCRR has a regional inclusion specialist that is housed in Klamath Falls.</p>	

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	<p>Through the Suspension Expulsion Prevention Program, there will be funding for one full-time employee (FTE) per Hub region for a mental health provider.</p> <p>DELIC put out an RFA for the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention Program for Hub regions to determine what is needed and what currently exists for behavioral support within each region. The implementation will have one FTE providing behavioral health consultation, which is difficult with our region being so large. The South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) region is one of the last regions to receive the grant and is learning from other Hubs who began the planning grant earlier. Douglas ESD applied for the grant and the Hub will do the planning process while the ESD will lead the implementation process. Partner input will be needed. Some partners that will be included are EI/ECSE, CCRR, Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), behavior specialists, and more. Over the next year, the SCELH will conduct focus groups that will include child care providers, behavior specialists, parents, Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) and more. There will also be a steering committee made up of individuals guiding and directing the implementation. Heidi East McGowan will facilitate the focus groups and steering committee.</p> <p>Rionna shared that in February child care professionals had a union conference and invited DELIC. DELIC spent about two hours with child care providers where providers were able to share their experiences in classrooms. Even with appropriate funding, there is not a way one behavioral health consultant will be able to support the behavioral health needs appropriately. It's a lofty goal and will take more years to put supports together. The union is working on the back end with DELIC and licensing to determine what happens if a child has to be suspended or expelled. The union is recommending a technical assistance request opposed to licensing violation if children are excluded from</p>	

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	<p>classrooms. The goal is to prevent child care settings from having to close.</p> <p>Shawn shared that she attended an online webinar for providers. She did hear that licenses will not be at risk if a child is suspended or expelled from an early learning setting. She also shared that if a parent shares that another provider suspended/expelled their child, child care professionals are supposed to report that to the State.</p> <p>Heidi shared there is a desire to hear from providers, and understand what supports are currently available, as well as what would be helpful. During the planning process, the steering committee will explore what is available, what is needed, and what the role of the behavior specialist will be. There is more guidance coming out around what the process can look like, which is hopeful.</p> <p>Analicia shared that Children’s Institute just released information about the CCO’s Social-Emotional metric in their most recent newsletter. She is hopeful that the wisdom already available will assist in this work. She also noted that she is curious about the root cause and why there is a difference in the number of suspensions, expulsions, and behavioral needs from several years ago.</p> <p>Gillian shared Dr. Amy King will be part of the steering committee. Home (doctoramylc.com)</p>	

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<p><i>Home Visiting Systems Coordinated Update- Gillian Wesenberg</i></p>	<p>Gillian shared that the Center for Coordinating Oregon’s Home Visiting Systems (CCOHVS) was created to coordinate home visiting across the state and to create expansion. There is a State meeting with CCOHVS tomorrow which Vanessa is attending and Heidi is helping facilitate. The South-Central Early Learning Hub’s Home Visiting Systems Coordination came from funding from The Ford Family Foundation, and Community UPLIFT was a design of the Home Visiting Systems Coordination group.</p>	
<p><i>Child Care Resource and Referral and Douglas County Child Care Coalition- Heather Freilinger</i></p>	<p>Heather shared that there was an Inclusive Partners amendment to the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) grant. This provided an opportunity to add a staff member to provide coaching and technical assistance for programs that were looking at inclusion practices. The inclusive partners team member is in Klamath Falls. Previously, inclusive partners staff all used to be located in the metro Portland area and drove to programs across the state. The new staff member is only one FTE. Heather shared she is currently hiring for a quality improvement specialist in Douglas County that will serve part of the inclusive partners role. The Quality Improvement Specialist (QIS) will help recruit individuals for focus groups for the suspension / expulsion planning grant. There are eight staff in Douglas County, and four staff in Klamath County.</p> <p>Heather shared they are continuing to support their Strong Start providers. Strong Start assists with creating continuity of starting out in early childhood and professional development. Providers can join at any time as classes will start over in January. Providers can graduate after one year from when they join the network. The program is two hours per month. Providers can take classes ala-cart as well.</p>	

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	<p>Heather stated that their Fall conference is occurring this weekend, and they are hosting Rusty Keeler, author of <i>Adventures in Risky Play</i>. Registration closes Friday. Heather shared that the planning group worked with philanthropy to get funding so registration prices could be reduced.</p> <p>Windy shared that the Fall conference Friday night activity will be viewing a movie called <i>Forget Me Not, Inclusion in the Classroom</i>. The film is about a family in New York who were struggling with inclusion for their child. This movie night is open to the community and free to attend.</p> <p>Heather stated that the CCRR just released their quarterly training calendar. The calendar has several training opportunities outlined.</p> <p>Heather shared that there are currently 14 providers that are in progress in Douglas County. There are currently 145 providers in Douglas County. Providers in Douglas County have received over \$95k in funding to make improvements to their businesses. CCRR has received 20 applications in Douglas County for infrastructure grants and 30 applications from across the region. There are 146 vacancies in childcare programs in Douglas County.</p>	
<i>Round Table-All</i>	<p>Dr. Dannenhoffer shared that every winter diseases spike. There is a new monoclonal antibody for infants to receive that can help reduce the severity of RSV cases. Douglas County is expecting a typical flu year which generally starts the beginning of January and peaks the end of January or the beginning of February. Dr. Dannenhoffer encourages everyone to get the flu vaccine. Douglas County has seen the highest COVID rates ever in Douglas County this summer. Most COVID cases during the summer were mild as most of the population has been vaccinated or had COVID previously. COVID is expected to peak again in February. Avian flu is infecting mostly in horses and birds not in humans yet. Oregon has been measles free for years, but there were recently 30</p>	

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	<p>cases in the Portland area among individuals who were not vaccinated. This measles outbreak resulted in two hospitalizations, and no deaths. Finally, Dr. Dannenhoffer shared that long term COVID side effects in young people are prevalent. There are three major symptoms of long COVID which include "Sleeping beauty" syndrome where youth are sleeping 18 hours a day; chest pain, which typically resolves over six to 12 months which can include difficulty breathing, or difficulty drawing a full breath; and decreased stamina. It is difficult to measure mental impacts in children as seen in adults, such as experiencing brain fog or reduced memory retention, and mental impacts do not seem to be related to how sick patients were in the beginning.</p> <p>Marsha LaVerne shared that this is the first year Family Development Center (FDC) has started at 99% capacity. Family Development Center has 19 classes - nine preschool, five toddler, and five infant classrooms. 169 children are enrolled in therapeutic classrooms. FDC has four respite classes a week. In the month of September, staff completed 306 home visits. They are sending all teachers to a conference this weekend.</p> <p>Family Development Center is providing neurofeedback therapy. They have two certified therapists. Marsha shared that anyone struggling with big disruptions from dysregulation has had great results after attending neurofeedback therapy. This is an open panel provider, so referrals for therapy can be received without being enrolled in other services with Family Development Center.</p> <p>Shawn Massingale shared that the Casey Eye Institute came and did vision screenings for all students enrolled in Head Start. The Green Elementary Head Start site needed more classrooms, so they have moved to a new building.</p> <p>Rionna Ruley shared that they purchased a new building for the Wildflower Preschool. The new site requires extensive remodels. Once</p>	

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	<p>in the new building, Wildflower Preschool will likely have 48 slots with eight being infant slots. Rionna has applied for an infrastructure grant that would allow the site to receive an additional expansion. If Wildflower Preschool receives the infrastructure grant, it would allow for 24 additional infant/toddler spots.</p>	
<p>Adjourn-Steve Schenewerk</p>	<p>Steve adjourned the meeting.</p>	
<p>Next meeting</p>	<p>February 4, 2025</p>	