

LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

February 25, 2025 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Attendance

Michael Carter (v)	Jennifer Schultz	Jaelynn Luna
Lane Stratton (v)	Shalom Rorabaugh	Athena Wikstrom
Miranda Philibert	Melanie Pardue	Danielle Walker
Michael Benson	Vanessa Pingleton	

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 January 2025 minutes. Michael Benson motioned to approve the minutes with a revision. The Honker Preschool Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) transition meeting dated April 9 should be updated to April 15, 2025. Lane Stratton seconded the motion with the revision. No further discussion. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved with the revision. Revised minutes will be sent to the Lake County Community Governance Council.

South-Central Early Learning Hub – Athena Wikstrom shared that the Regional Governance Council for the South-Central Early Learning Hub approved funding for three projects through a one-year Early Literacy grant from the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC). Two of these projects focus on professional development, aiming to strengthen capacity and equip child care providers across the region with necessary tools in preparation for the legislation prohibiting suspension and expulsion in early care and education settings, which takes effect on July 1, 2026. The third training opportunity is designed for families.

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.

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 professionals serving the Hub’s priority populations. To support those working with children during the day, the Hub has allocated funding for mileage and substitute teacher reimbursements, ensuring greater accessibility.

The Douglas County professional development training with Dr. Bailey took place on February 24 and 25. Gillian was unable to attend the Lake County Governance Council meeting as she was participating in the training in Douglas County.

Dr. Bailey is scheduled to offer the training on March 10 and 11 in Lake County and March 31 and April 1 in Klamath County due to heavy snow storms and school closures on the original training dates

II. Cards for Connection Training with Dr. Amy King

The South-Central Early Learning Hub has contracted Dr. Amy King to deliver virtual Cards for Connection training, which provides intervention strategies for managing challenging child behaviors. Dr. King, a licensed psychologist, specializes in trauma-informed care and resilience building, training, consultation,

and education to professionals and organizations. She has served as a statewide trainer for the Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare and as a subject matter expert for the Children's Health Alliance, promoting child wellness in pediatric settings. Additionally, she recently co-authored *The Trauma-Informed Pediatric Practice: A Resilience-Based Roadmap to Foster Early Relational Health* for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Cards for Connection is open to 50 participants across the region and will take place over one full day and 2 half days. Finalized dates and registration details will be announced soon.

III. 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.

The BUILD initiative was contracted to define the roles and responsibilities of Early Learning Hubs through collaboration with the Early Learning Council (ELC), Early Learning Hubs, and the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). This work has now concluded, bringing greater clarity to the scope and function of the Hubs. BUILD submitted rule recommendations to the ELC and DELIC, which are currently under review. The rules committee plans to implement changes for Hubs in two phases over the next two years. Early Learning Hubs received one-year zero to five Early Literacy Funds, though it is unclear if additional funding will be provided in the future. The Hub also utilized zero to five Early Literacy Funds to distribute mini grants to community partners to support early literacy efforts across the region. One mini grant was awarded to the Family Governance Advisory Committee for the South-Central Early Learning Hub, to establish Little Free Libraries in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties.

In Lake County, a Little Library will be installed in Adel and another at the Food Share in Lakeview, with a third Little Free Library's placement yet to be determined. Lake ESD is also assisting with setting up these libraries. Libraries will be stocked with books in English, Spanish, bilingual editions, and culturally specific selections representing diverse backgrounds and protagonists of varying skill levels, ensuring broader exposure for children who may not otherwise have access to such materials.

The Hub is still accepting applications for Honker Preschool Promise. While the program at Honker is currently full, the Hub maintains a waitpool for eligible students in case a spot becomes available. Families are also provided with information on alternative preschool options, including the Klamath Family Head Start Lakeview Site. The application process for returning Preschool Promise students for the 2025-2026 school year will open later this week for families wishing to continue in the Preschool Promise program. Once qualified, children remain eligible for Preschool Promise, as long as they meet the age requirements. The full application for new students will open once DELIC releases the finalized version of the updated Preschool Promise application.

Danielle provided an update on Community UPLiFT, a program that connects expecting families and families with children from birth to five years old—and up to age 21 for those with special needs—to community resources. Last month, Community UPLiFT received one referral for Lake County from a Healthy Families America site located in Boulder, CO.

Online referrals for Community UPLiFT can be submitted at www.community-uplift.com or via smartphone by texting "uplift1" to 484848. For more information about Community UPLiFT, or a presentation, contact Danielle Walker at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Community UPLiFT has a 30-second public service announcement, available here:

Spanish subtitles: <https://vimeo.com/835904539/347a52dd74>

English subtitles: <https://vimeo.com/834421711/b5121a718b>

Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) – Michael Benson reported that the current EI/ECSE caseload is 18 students across both EI and ECSE, with three more children expected to qualify for services within the next week and a half. Additionally, work is ongoing with five EI/ECSE referrals. Testing for one of the five children is scheduled for next week.

Transition meetings for the Honker Preschool Promise Program are scheduled for April 15.

Out of the 18 children enrolled in EI/ECSE services, four will transition to Lakeview School District #7, one will transition to North Lake, and another will transition to Paisley. Transition meetings are also scheduled with North Lake and Paisley to facilitate these transitions, and plans will be developed to ensure a smooth progression into the K12 system.

For the past month, Michael Benson has been staying overnight in Christmas Valley once a week. This arrangement was made to accommodate travel as half of the EI/ECSE caseload is currently located farther north than Paisley. This schedule is expected to continue through the end of the year.

Lake ESD – Lane Stratton expressed appreciation for the work of Take Root in Lake County.

Lane also noted uncertainty regarding state and federal funding and the potential impact on Lake ESD programming. The ESD will modify the budget and programming once there is greater clarity on funding for education in Lake County.

Honker Preschool – Honker Preschool is currently managing some behavioral challenges within the program and is utilizing the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) document provided for schools as an alternative to suspension and expulsion.

Recent heavy snowfall has created opportunities for outdoor play, with staff helping preschoolers dress in snow gear to climb snow hills.

Last month's parent meeting was very successful, exceeding the scheduled time due to strong parent engagement at the meeting. Parents and guardians reviewed curriculum options, provided input, and began planning activities such as field trips. The parents are actively invested in supporting their children's education. Parents are also interested in the Preschool Promise application process for the 2025-2026 school year.

Efforts are underway to attempt to secure grants for summer child care programming, including gap care grant for child care coverage on Fridays and during long breaks like winter and spring break. After-school care is currently available.

Plans are also in place for the annual Jog-a-Thon, which may be combined with a tribute to a teacher, Gretta, marking one year since her passing, weather permitting.

Klamath Family Head Start, Lakeview Site - Shalom Rorabaugh advised that Klamath Family Head Start is entering the budgeting and planning phase for the upcoming year while also working on grant applications. As part of the self-assessment process, the program is considering a shift to a four-day school week to better align with the district schedule. Last year, Head Start maintained a five-day schedule, but a decline in Friday attendance has been observed, likely due to students having siblings out of school.

Enrollment efforts are underway, with applications for next year opening in March and April.

A significant need for child care, particularly for children from birth to age three, has been identified throughout Lake County.

Take Root Parenting Connection – Vanessa Pingleton shared updates from Take Root, including upcoming events such as a Family Game Night at the Center, a Sensory Playdate at Dailey Middle School, a St. Patrick's Day craft at Memorial Hall, and a squish making activity in Paisley. Take Root is pausing Family Engagement Boxes for now as Bailey prepares for maternity leave. The first Parent Leadership

informational meeting is scheduled for Friday, with registered participants from families in Christmas Valley, Paisley, and Lakeview.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) - Vanessa Pingleton also shared that a Home Visiting gathering is scheduled for April 21 in Medford, with the location to be determined. Travel reimbursement and food will be provided by The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF).

At this time, HVSC funding is transitioning from TFFF to the Center for Coordinating Oregon's Home Visiting Systems (CCOHVS). The transition is expected to be completed by June 30.

Lake County Public Health - Miranda Philibert shared an update about school exclusion day. The deadline for immunizations or immunization exemptions was February 19, 2025. She worked closely with school secretaries to gather all the necessary information, ensuring a smooth process. As a result, fewer than three children were excluded from school due to missing immunizations or immunization exemptions.

Lakeview School District #7 -- Michael Carter shared that it is a challenging time with the legislature, noting a major shift in legislators. There are concerns regarding federal funding. Most of the DELC funding is secure, as it comes from state funds, with only a small allocation of funding being federal. While the source of general funds is not always as clear-cut as state funds, DELC has advised that there are no immediate concerns with funding. However, it remains something to keep in mind as we move forward.

Other Business -- Athena shared that Senator Reynolds, Chair of the Senate Early Childhood Committee, is introducing the Omnibus package to the legislature, which includes several bills focused on improving maternal health and well-being. Currently, Lake County lacks nurse home visiting services or the capability to offer them. The Hub continues to advocate for the state to address these disparities in rural counties like Lake County, to ensure that families in these areas receive the support they need.

Next Meeting: March 18 2025, at 1:00 pm. One week early due to Spring Break

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