

LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

March 18, 2025 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Attendance

Lane Stratton (v)	Gillian Wesenberg	Jaelynn Luna
Michael Benson	Marsha Richmond	Athena Wikstrom
Shalom Rorabaugh	Vanessa Pingleton	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 February 2025 meeting minutes will be presented for review and approval at the April 2025 meeting.

Lake ESD – Lane Stratton shared that two preschool teachers from Adel were able to attend the Preschool Life Skills and De-Escalation training presented by Dr. Bailey. This opportunity was especially valuable, as access to professional development is often limited in Lake County.

Gillian added that she attended the Preschool Life Skills and De-Escalation training held in Douglas County and encouraged those who were unable to attend the Lake County session to consider attending the upcoming training in Klamath County on March 31 and April 1. Providers and school districts in Douglas County are exploring options to bring Dr. Bailey back for additional training opportunities.

South-Central Early Learning Hub – Gillian shared that the previously mentioned Preschool Life Skills and De-Escalation training presented by Dr. Dawn Bailey is being provided by the South-Central Early Learning Hub. An additional training, Cards for Connection, is led by Dr. Amy King and is also being offered by the South-Central Early Learning Hub. These trainings aim to support early care and education providers in preparing for Every Child Belongs legislation, which will prohibit suspension and expulsion in all early childhood settings beginning July 1, 2026.

Additionally, the Hub is offering the Kids in Transition to School (KITS) at Home program for parents of children entering kindergarten. This program helps families build school readiness skills through engaging, everyday learning activities at home.

Athena provided supplemental information regarding three upcoming and ongoing professional development opportunities:

Professional Development Training with Dr. Dawn Bailey

Dr. Dawn Bailey is leading a series of three, two-day in-person trainings for early care and education professionals. Trainings have already been completed in Douglas and Lake Counties. One final opportunity to attend will be offered in Klamath County on March 31 and April 1. Registration is currently open and available online at [...: Learning Stream :...:](#)

Cards for Connection with Dr. Amy King

Dr. Amy King will host a virtual, three-day (non-consecutive) *Cards for Connection* training. The series includes one full-day session in April focused on trauma-informed and trauma-responsive practices, followed by two half-day sessions in May on using the *Cards for Connection* tool she developed. The tool is designed for use with expecting families and families with children up to age 18, emphasizing parent-child bonding and developmentally appropriate content.

This is a certification course, and the Early Learning Hub requests that participants register only if they can commit to attending all three sessions.

Kids in Transition to School (KITS) Program

The Hub is offering the Kids in Transition to School (KITS) program for families of incoming kindergarteners who have not attended preschool and live in geographically isolated areas. The program consists of weekly 90-minute online sessions over eight weeks. It is designed to promote school readiness by integrating learning into daily activities. The program is research-based and backed by six years of data collection and experience from Dr. Katherine Pears and the Oregon Social Learning Center.

Athena also shared that the Family Governance Advisory Committee has placed two Little Free Libraries in Lake County—one at the Food Share in Lakeview and another at Paisley School. A third library will be installed in Silver Lake once weather conditions allow for safe travel. These libraries are stocked with books in English, Spanish, bilingual editions, and culturally specific selections featuring diverse protagonists and content suitable for varying skill levels. The goal is to expand access to literature for children who may not otherwise have such opportunities.

Danielle shared that the South-Central Early Learning Hub is still accepting Preschool Promise applications for Honker Preschool Promise for the 2024-2025 year. The Hub maintains a waitpool for eligible students in case a spot becomes available, allowing the Hub to quickly fill any vacancies if a student leaves the program.

Applications for returning students who remain age-eligible for Preschool Promise in the 2025–2026 school year are now open. Once children are qualified for Preschool Promise, they remain eligible to remain in the program until they are age-eligible for kindergarten.

The application process for new Preschool Promise students for the 2025–2026 school year will open for families to apply once the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) releases the finalized updates to the Preschool Promise application and the updates are reflected in the Hub’s application system.

Community UPLiFT connects expecting families and families with children from birth to five years old, as well as families up to age 21 for those with special needs, to community resources. Families continue to have the option to select a Community UPLiFT on both the new and returning Preschool Promise applications. With the opening of the Preschool Promise applications, the Hub anticipates an increase in Community UPLiFT referrals.

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 online at:

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

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

The South-Central Early Learning Hub will be closed from March 24 through March 28, but will have staff checking Community UPLiFT and completing referrals over the break.

Take Root Parenting Connection – Bailey Guido shared that Take Root hosted a St. Patrick’s Craft Event, which had 22 registrants. Despite poor weather conditions at the time of the event, attendance was high. The next upcoming family event is Squish-tivities at Paisley School, scheduled for Friday from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Additionally, there will be an Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC) Site Visit on Thursday from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. In person options will be held in Douglas, Klamath and Lake Counties. Lake County will be at Daly Middle School, however there is a virtual option to participate as well. Community partners are invited to attend and share feedback with OPEC funders about the work of Take Root throughout Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties.

The Spring schedule will be released soon, which will include two online series: Active Parenting for Teens and Active Parenting for Co-Parents, both starting right after Spring Break.

Take Root will be out of the office for Spring Break from March 24 through March 28. Bailey will be going on maternity leave, tentatively starting April 25.

Care Connections & Education, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – Jaelynn Luna shared that the Klamath County Spring Fling conference, originally scheduled for last week, was postponed to April 5 due to inclement weather. Registration is still open for the event. The Douglas County Spring Fling conference registration is also still open and will be held at Umpqua Community College (UCC) on May 17.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) will also be closed from March 24 through March 28 for Spring Break.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) – Vanessa Pingleton shared that the Home Visiting System Coordination (HVSC) Support Gathering will be held on April 21 at Rogue Community College in White City. Transportation stipends and lunch will be provided for attendees, though attendees are encouraged to carpool when possible to help reduce costs.

The gathering will include an overview of how the work of home visitors aligns with Raise Up Oregon, as well as presentations from the Center for Coordinating Oregon’s Home Visiting Systems (CCOHVS). The event will also celebrate the important work being done to support children and families across the region.

Klamath Family Head Start, Lakeview Site - Shalom Rorabaugh shared that the Lakeview Klamath Family Head Start site is considering discontinuing participation in the Preschool Promise program and adding an additional Early Head Start classroom. This proposal is based on several months of research into Lake County’s preschool and child care availability, demographic, and current Preschool Promise enrollment numbers. The Klamath Family Head Start Board and Policy Council are currently reviewing the data and are expected to vote on the decision soon.

Lakeview Head Start currently has a substantial waitlist for children ages birth to three, while some slots remain open for children ages three to five. The proposed change would allow for the addition of nine slots for children age birth to three, while maintaining 20 preschool-duration slots and both the birth-to-two and two-to-three-year-old classrooms.

Gillian noted that Honker Preschool is listed by the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) as a potential recipient of additional Preschool Promise slots should any provider choose to exit the program. DELIC remains committed to retaining Preschool Promise slots within Hub regions.

Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) – Michael Benson reported that there are currently 21 children enrolled in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) programs across the county. One new referral is currently in process.

EI/ECSE is currently focused on transition meetings for children who will be entering kindergarten in the 2025–2026 school year. Transition meetings for Paisley took place a little over a week ago. Transition meetings for Lakeview School District #7 are scheduled to take place after spring break.

Next Meeting: April 22, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

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