

**South-Central Early Learning Hub**  
**Lake County Community Governance Council**  
**Minutes – March 16, 2021**

**Welcome/Introductions**

Vicky Taylor (s), Jack Thompson (s), Jake Greer, Heidi Martinez, Danielle Walker, Michael Carter (s), Machel Ramirez, Vanessa Pingleton, Wendy Brown, Michael Benson (v), Athena Wikstrom, Rejeen Cooper (v), Charlene Shaw, Ken Kestner, Gillian Wesenberg, Amy Hutchinson (s), Arvinder Singh, Julie Hurley, Gail Buermann (s)

**Review Agenda/Meeting Minutes-** Approve minutes from February 23, 2021 meeting

Michael Carter made a motion to approve the minutes with no revisions. Rejeen Cooper seconded the motion; all members were in favor of the approval.

**South-Central Early Learning Hub –**

Vanessa Pingleton provided an overview of Community UPLiFT as a closed-loop intake and referral system. On the South-Central Early Learning Hub's website, there is a link to click on to get more information for Community UPLiFT. You can click "Find a referral" and submit a referral for a family with a child from ages zero to five or up to 21 for a child with special needs. The family information provided assists the Family Resource Facilitator with some information about the family before they call. There is an option when submitting a referral to receive a call back about connections we have made for the family.

In the future, you will be able to see all of the referrals you have submitted, the connections we made for the families, and the status of the referral. The portal is HIPPA / FERPA approved. Once the Family Resource Facilitator receives an e-mail that a referral has come in, they will review the referral with information about the family and contact the family within 48 business hours. We try to reach families three times, then, after no response, we send them a letter. When we contact the family, we fill out the family survey which covers basic health factors. If the family does not have a Primary Care Provider (PCP), at the end of the call, we try to connect them with one. The mother/father postnatal depression questions are based on Wendy Davis's questions. If the family isn't willing to get services for postnatal depression, information is sent by mail or email. A consent agreement is read for families to agree to providing their information to providers. There is an opportunity to upload documents to the referral questionnaire as well, if needed.

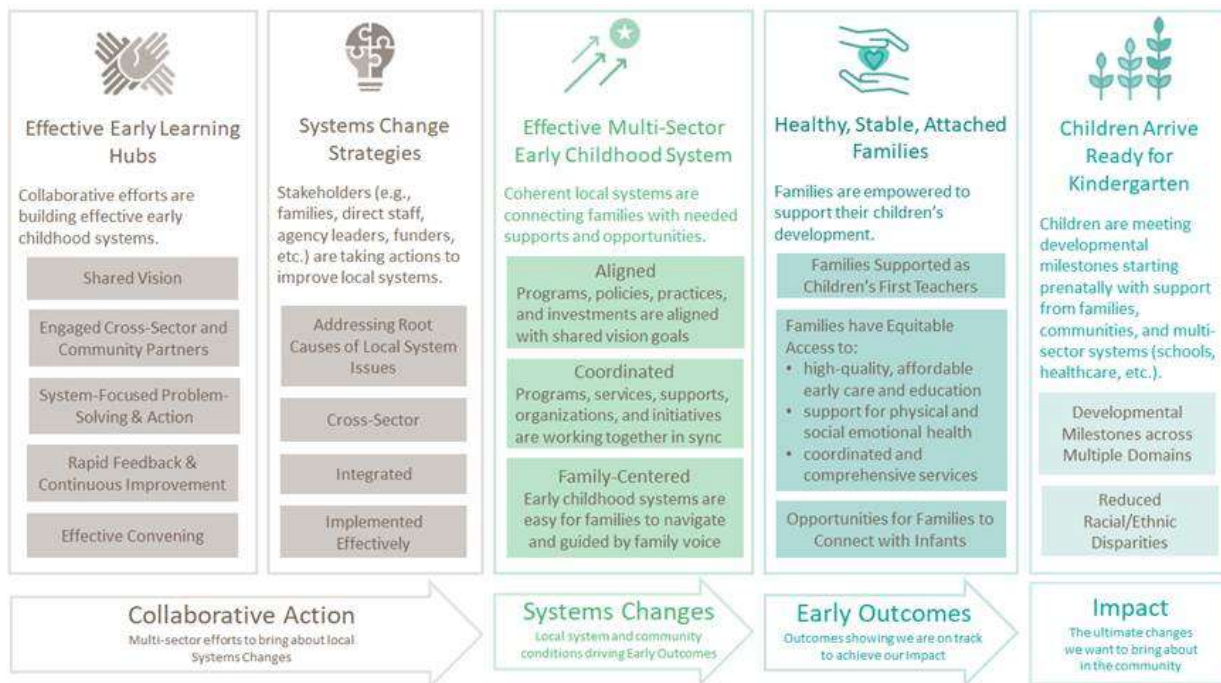
Family and individual care plans that have been created by Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) will be able to be uploaded after the upcoming revision and all necessary agencies working with the family would be able to see the plan to work as a coordinated system. There is also a hope to be able to communicate through the system with other referral agencies (i.e. Head Start and Healthy Families).

Amy asked if it would be appropriate to add Imagination Library as a referral. Vanessa will follow up with Amy to get the necessary information and can get the Imagination Library set up by next week.

If any organizations would like more information, Vanessa and our team can present Community UPLIFT to them.

Athena and Danielle shared an overview of the recent Regional Governance meeting that took place in March. Carmen Ellis and Denise Swanson from the Early Learning Division (ELD) and Sue Parrish and Anne Kubisch from the Early Learning Council (ELC) joined the Regional Governance Council meeting and outlined the Theory of Change and Scope of Work. Anne Kubisch from the Early Learning Council brings representation from rural areas and is working to be sure that we have a voice. The Theory of Change is the ELD’s new working theory of their vision for the early learning hubs. The Scope of Work outlines the tasks that are required to reach the goals outlined in the Theory of Change. Currently, both of these documents are still in draft form and awaiting revision to be submitted to the legislature for approval.

Athena and Danielle shared the systems building visual from the Theory of Change.



The legislature is currently meeting. One of the items in front of the legislature is expanded Preschool Promise for next year. Summer Program funding is another item in front of the legislature for this summer, but the details are not fully known yet.

Gillian shared there is a new funding formula that is resulting in approximately a \$200,000 cut for our region.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) has Design Thinking for Leaders coming up. Virtual Sessions will be on April 14, May 19, and June 16, 2021. Registration for the group is now open.

Michael Carter shared that while the state is trying to be more equitable, they have missed a big step by creating a gap in rural Oregon. There are many undocumented Hispanics in Lake County that are not being counted and will be falling through the cracks.

Gillian stated she is sharing with partners across the state how Lake County is an example of a geographically isolated area where there is only one pharmacy with some people having a two-hour commute to the pharmacy in Lakeview if, in fact, they are able to find and access a doctor to write the prescription. Citizens find a lack of basic services in geographically isolated areas in rural and frontier communities. Gillian is trying to use “geographically isolated” when describing our region as it seems to provide a better understanding than “rural” or “frontier” often does.

Michael Carter stated that “frontier” is often pictured as the wild west and was needed during COVID-19, but for funding it is causing a gap that geographic isolation is able to communicate better.

Amy observed that we need to start squeaking the wheel now so that the legislature understands rural needs now before the next legislative session.

Michael Carter is engaging the County Commissioners to assist with funding. Once COVID-19 gets better, we need to have a community meeting to come up with a common, straight forward language that everyone understands to provide a united front. Even small funding cuts (under ten percent) can eliminate an employment position that can cut a full program. Language needs to be short bullet points to capture the attention of the legislators.

Vicky observed rural areas need funding to account for transportation, especially geographically isolated areas as services can be so far away from residences.

Gillian is happy to be at any table that would be beneficial.

Michael Carter shared we are expecting to hear about summer funding this Friday. There is a delay due to the power outages from the snow storm in Salem. Everyone should start planning for summer enrichment. Michael has already started recruiting teachers for the summer programming.

**EI/ECSE** – Mike Benson advised that EI/ECSE is providing in person services to children. They are currently working on education plans for children in their program who will be transitioning into kindergarten in the fall. Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings have historically been full day meetings, however, they are now meeting only as needed because there are only two students transitioning to Lakeview School District.

Currently, eight children have Individualized Family Support Plans (IFSPs), two in North Lake and six in the Lakeview area. There are also two families in the referral process right now and one that is expected to enter the process soon.

The Annual Compliance Review is complete. There were a couple of concerns that were found during the review where timelines were missed. One instance was determined to be out of compliance where the meeting had been scheduled but not everyone was able to attend due to video needs, then the family had personal concerns and the timeline was missed. In this instance, the meeting was missed in March, 2020 and in June, 2020. Guidance was provided that meetings should occur regardless of being able to hold the meeting with the family. It was determined this is not a chronic concern, but a one-time miss.

**Lake County ESD** – Jack Thompson shared North Lake is doing well. They are excited for their building updates. Paisley is looking at budgets for next year and they are unsure if they will be able to bring in exchange students as they normally do. Adel and Plush are planning for their large spring field trips.

They each take a week-long field trip and are hoping they will be able to continue with it. They can cancel if needed.

**Lakeview School District** - Michael Carter advised that the Lakeview School District purchased the Sunshine Center from the Town of Lakeview to house a district child care facility. The building sale closes today, and building renovations have already begun.

Sports are occurring and things are looking good right now.

**North Lake School District** - Gail Buermann shared North Lake School District was able to initiate the new gym yesterday at the elementary school. To celebrate, they had a teacher basketball shoot out where the winning teacher's class got hot chocolate. The Middle School Girls' Volleyball team hosted a parent versus team scrimmage and the parents won.

Everything else is business as usual, except the district was able to add sports. Little League baseball is starting.

**Klamath Family Head Start, Lakeview Site** – Rejeen Cooper advised that Head Start is going into spring break next week which everyone is excited for. The school year has about 90 days remaining.

**Healthy Families** – Machel Ramirez shared that many individuals believe Healthy Families in Lake and Klamath Counties are no longer serving families, but assured the group that they are.

**Lake District Hospital** - Heidi Martinez reported the Lake District Hospital is working on starting services where therapists will be able to go to homes to provide services. They are working to get services in schools that are helpful for families and children, and Trace will be contacting Michael Carter to get support. Lake District Hospital will be retraining two child therapists for Parent Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT) after the previous employees had left. The training does not take place until May, but they need to have children enrolled before then. If you know anyone that has behavioral concerns, please refer them to Lake District Hospital.

**Community Corrections** - Jake Greer wanted to extend a round of applause for both districts for rallying around staff and students after a youth took his life last week. He's in the middle of budget season and will shoot for the moon while hoping for the best.

**Lake Health District** – Arvinder shared that Lake County has secured funding for the summer food program. It will begin in mid-June and end in mid-August. They will be opening up applications for staff to serve in the summer food program and will be reaching out to partners for distribution and preparation of lunches.

**Lake County Library** - Melanie is having a hard time meeting their transportation budget, so if you need help with transportation, contact her for help.

Imagination Library enrollment is down a little, which seems to be due to reduced face to face meetings. There is an awareness for enrollment event coming up on April 9th at the Dinner Bill for Taco Pizzas that will provide a \$5 donation to the Imagination Library for each Taco Pizza sold. There's hope to open a library in Christmas Valley.

**Take Root** - Julie shared that Take Root was able to sponsor Strengthening Families Facilitator training through Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC). Take Root is continuing to offer parenting

groups and workshops online. There is a cool workshop that will focus on family engagement with each other where parents and children go for a walk and look for certain things and share what they found and have scientists analyze the objects families find. It will take place online and through Facebook. Wonderful Ones, Making Parenting a Pleasure, Strengthening Families and a variety of workshops will be offered in the Spring including Discipline is Not a Dirty Word and a workshop about children biting.

**Next Meeting:** April 27 at 1:00 pm, meeting will be held virtually.