

South-Central Early Learning Hub
Lake County Community Governance Council
Minutes - February 23, 2021

Attendees: 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), Kadi Estes, Cynthia Hurkes, Charlene Shaw, Hannah Brollier, Ken Kestner, Gillian Wesenberg, Amy Hutchinson (s), Arvinder Singh

Review Agenda/Meeting Minutes- Approve minutes from December 15, 2020 meeting

The Lake County Roster was updated and shared with today's meeting materials.

Two revisions for the January minutes were requested:

- Add page numbers to these and all future minutes
- On page three, correct Adelle to Adel

Amy made a motion to approve the minutes with revisions. Michael Carter seconded the motion; all members were in favor of the approval.

South-Central Early Learning Hub – Gillian Wesenberg gave an overview of current legislative bills.

- House Bill 3073 –
 - Establishes an Early Learning Authority (ELA) and moves the Employment-Related Day Care (ERDC) program from Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) oversight to the ELA by June 30, 2023.
 - This bill aligns the early learning system goals, updates the state interagency coordinating council membership, and strengthens the coordination between early learning systems and K-12.
- House Bill 2054 – Modifies recipients and uses of the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Program (KPI) grant.
- House Bill 2055 – Establishes an Early Learning Hub for Tribes in Oregon.
- House Bill 2056 – Establishes equitable discipline techniques for early childhood programs.
- House Bill 2484 – Establishes that landlords cannot discriminate against the use of rental homes as family child care settings.
- Proposed State Funding Formula
 - The new state proposed funding formula for Early Learning Hubs is based on the most recent U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) estimates for poverty, race/ethnicity, and home language. Our Hub region is one of six that would lose funding in their budget.
 - Michael Carter is curious about the proposed funding formula and equitable distribution to Hubs in frontier and rural Oregon.
 - The group requested more information on the proposed funding so that members could reach out to their legislators. Gillian and Michael will inform committee members once amendments to the bill are received.

Once Hubs receive more information on the Theory of Change and Scope of Work from the Early Learning Division (ELD), it will be shared with committees.

Gillian is meeting monthly with ODHS District Managers in Douglas, Klamath and Lake Counties, Maurita Johnson and Desta Walsh. These meetings focus on systems alignment around Raise Up Oregon. Gillian received a special invitation to speak with Family Coaches to discuss the effects of Raise Up Oregon on families in our region.

The ELH has hired a New Family Resource Facilitator for Douglas County to replace the previous Facilitator. Ceresse Harris will start on March 17.

Community UPLiFT – Vanessa Pingleton shared that Community UPLiFT is working on expanding their data portal. This expansion would include communication between programs working on shared families, and the addition of family care plans. Vanessa and Vicky will schedule time at a later meeting to show a data portal demonstration.

Community UPLiFT started working with Lake Health District Prevention and Take Root on an opportunity to offer additional professional development trainings with Dr. Amy Stoeber on ACES and Resilience.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – Cynthia Hurkes gave a brief overview of Teach My Kits and shared that 300 kits in Lake County were distributed to partners in Lake County by Michael Carter before the end of December.

- Michael Benson advised that EI/ECSE has 18 remaining kits, and offered them to the Lake County Library for distribution to families.
- ODHS distributed kits to children in Foster Care.
- Vicky Taylor distributed kits to families participating in the Healthy Families program in Christmas Valley, Paisley and Lakeview. In March, Vicky will deliver additional kits to the library in Christmas Valley.

KPI will be holding an Early Learning Gathering on February 25 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, focusing on Social-Emotional Learning aligned with the Kindergarten Assessment. There are currently 67 registrants for the first gathering, and registration will be open until Thursday. Two additional Early Learning Gatherings are scheduled for March and April.

KPI will be hosting Design Thinking for School Leaders in April, May, and June.

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. Head Start will send any necessary referrals or requests for additional developmental screenings to EI/ECSE after speaking with parents at their upcoming parent-teacher conferences.

Lake County ESD - Jack Thompson received news today that the Federal Government will deny the state's request to forgo testing children this year.

The ESD mentor program is connecting children to mentors. Ken Kestner is now a mentor for this program.

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 has been

unoccupied for nearly 15 years. They are hoping to have the building up to code by the end of the school year; the community has rallied around this effort and recognizes that there is a need for child care. The facility will care for children age three-years-old through sixth grade with the hope to expand into earlier care in the future.

Lakeview School District is also working with Klamath Community College (KCC) to offer a Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate.

Klamath Family Head Start, Lakeview Site – Rejeen Cooper advised that the Head Start duration classroom was shut-down and in quarantine for ten days due to a positive COVID-19 case. The 16 children and seven staff affected were able to return on February 22.

Enrollment for Head Start’s 2021-2022 school year will begin in March.

Healthy Families – Machel Ramirez advised that referrals have been slow in Klamath and Lake Counties. They have heard feedback that programs do not know that Healthy Families is still available since their move from Klamath Basin Behavioral Health (KBBH) to United Community Action Network (UCAN). Machel will be sending informational flyers to community partners letting them know that Healthy Families is still available and accepting referrals.

Lake District Hospital - Heidi Martinez reported that they are seeing an increase in self-referrals for adults and from the referrals, it appears that Lake County children seem to be stable right now. Lake District Hospital has been doing the majority of their appointments via tele-health but are returning to in-person appointments beginning immediately. Staff will screen patients for COVID-19 symptoms, enforce masking, and hand washing / sanitizing.

Lake District Wellness - Francie Winters advised the Sources of Strength, the resilience building / suicide prevention program is being presented to middle and high school students throughout the county. Take Root Parenting Connections organized the Strengthening Families virtual training in March. Francie and Piper will attend the training and be able to offer the parenting series to families in Lake County.

ODHS - Kadi Estes reported that ODHS is hiring for two caseworker positions. Kadi also advised that there are currently no foster parents in Lakeview and requested that the group spread the word that foster parents are needed.

Community Corrections - Jake Greer shared that the Youth Investment Coordinator is working on a Youth Explorer Program in Lake County through Klamath County Search and Rescue. There are five to eight teens who are actively participating in the program. The members of the Explorer Program were able to put their training to use by participating in a recent search and rescue effort.

Juvenile referrals are down. Children are in school and behaving themselves.

Additions-Updates

Amy requested for a volunteer to become a voting member for the Lake Community Governance Council as the by-laws state eight voting members are required and there are currently seven. The term for voting members is two years, and the only request is that voting members attend meetings regularly and vote on motions. Step forward at the next meeting if you are interested in becoming a voting member.

Next Meeting: March 16 at 1:00 pm (which is one-week early due to Spring Break).