

South-Central Oregon Early Learning Hub  
Lake County Community Governance Council  
February 27, 2018 Minutes

Meeting was held at the Lake County Education Service District conference room.

**1. Introductions**

The following people attended the meeting: Mike Benson, Gail Buermann, Carol Coker, Melinda Collier, Heather Freilinger, Carlos Gomez, Jill Harlan, Julie Hurley, Cynthia Hurkes, Amy Hutchinson, Jennifer Pore, Judy Springer, Vicky Taylor, Jack Thompson, Susan Warner. Vicky Taylor noted that Department of Human Services is in the process of hiring someone to replace Charley Tracy. In the interim, Rhonda Neighorn will attend the meetings to represent DHS, but she was out of town today.

**2. Review Agenda**

Vicky called for any additions or changes to the agenda. None were offered. Agenda was approved as presented.

**3. Approve January 2018 minutes**

Vicky called for any changes to the January 23, 2018 minutes. None were offered. Minutes were approved as presented.

**4. Hub Update**

Vicky noted that Gillian is home sick, but other hub staff have some updates.

**a. Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation**

Cynthia reported that they sent award letters Friday for the KPI grants, and Lake County ESD was successful. The ESD will receive \$28,216.00 over the 2017-2019 biennium for Kindergarten Camps and Ready for Kindergarten. Cynthia noted since we are so late in receiving notice for the 2017-18 year, they don't expect half of the funds to be spent this year. Jack noted the new application process works well overall, but it did not allow them to save a copy of their submitted application. As the final version was typed directly into the website, he does not have a copy of the submission. Jack has emailed Alysha, the Contract and Grant Manger. Cynthia will make sure a copy gets to Jack. Cynthia also requested ESD let her know when they

schedule the first Ready for Kindergarten class so she can send the materials to the ESD.

**b. Additional Funds Discussion**

Cynthia noted that after MOUs are in place the SCOELH staff will want help determining how to expend professional development dollars in Lake County as well as some priority zone population dollars. There will be a discussion at a future meeting.

**c. Take Root Parenting Hub**

Julie Hurley noted that the Take Root Parenting Hub is not a part of SCOELH, but they still serve Lake County. They plan to continue to do parenting education in Lake County. They recently partnered with Lake District Wellness for Strengthening Families parent education program. They have earmarked money from Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative for services in Lake County. Julie would like to have the parenting hub represented at family engagement nights. The parenting hub also has online offerings. Parents can receive vouchers to go online to complete mini-modules on specific subjects such as when a child refuses to go to bed or do their homework. Parents do need a computer and an Internet connection to complete the modules. This year they piloted Chromebooks for use in Douglas County for parent education.

**d. Funding for services in Lake County**

**i. Priorities Zones funding**

Jack noted that in addition to the Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation funds, he, Gail, and Amy are working on an application to the Priorities grant application for Fremont/Hay and North Lake school district areas. Draft applications to provide parenting engagement nights beginning this summer and running through the school year 2018-19 were shared with the group. Events will be put on by the library in the North Lake area and Fremont/Hay area and at the school using pre-school staff. The library and the school will coordinate schedules to increase availability of programs to parents. Jack, Amy, and Gail are finalizing this application.

## **ii. Other Funding**

Jack reported there is about \$15,000 available for a part-time family resource facilitator for Lake County from the Ford home visiting grant. Jack reported there is at least one person interested in the position. Lake County has not been able to use this funding because we had no candidates interested in the position. Using other funding streams, this person would also take meeting minutes, update the Lake County work plans, and other administrative tasks. Douglas and Lake ESD are working out details. Jack reported that Gillian has some funds available to potentially contribute to this position as well for parenting activities through the hub. Jack asked Melinda and Heather Childcare Resource and Referral has money duties to add to a position in Lake County. Heather will have a contract position available for working with Lake County providers and recruiting childcare providers into the system. Vicky noted that Lakeview has been losing providers to other full time work as they are not able to make money doing childcare. Heather wants to provide lots of opportunities for training to potential providers to encourage them. to become providers. Childcare Resource and Referral will be having a small business summit in October that potential providers could attend. They also hope to work with Klamath Community College to get providers qualified, and they are looking at it as a work-force building issue. Melinda reported she did get a new provider in September and in November partnered with DHS to recruit more providers. Heather and Melinda have gotten articles in the newspaper, radio spots, and flyers out to Lake County to attract providers.

## **iii. Infrastructure**

Jack reported there is one additional pot of funds of about \$15,000 for infrastructure. He, Vicky, and Gillian are working to tie all funding streams together and place them and the responsibilities that go with them into appropriate positions.

## **5. Schools Updates**

**a. Lake County ESD**

Jack reported that he did apply for an early education grant but was not successful. Over \$700,000 in applications were received for the about \$200,000 in grant dollars available. Jack also reported that the ESD is looking for a Speech Language Pathologist.

**b. North Lake School**

Gail reported that the Priorities Zones funding is working well to be able to continue programs that were previously funded by the preschool grant that has expired.

**c. Fremont/Hay and Union**

Susan reported that the teachers are ready for Kindergarten Camp. As a response to the attendance issues, the schools have instituted a grab and go breakfast program. In October they also started looking at costs to provide a 9:15 AM snack to any child that wants it. They are also working with Head Start to increase field trips and interactions between Head Start and the schools.

**6. Early Learning Updates**

**a. Healthy Families**

Carols reported that they are very happy to have Vicky on staff. They are looking for someone to represent Lake County on the Healthy Families advisory board. Vicky does home visits with prenatal families up to three years old.

**b. Childcare Resource & Referral**

Melinda reported she is teaching a class on March 17 about trauma and attachment from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The class is open to all parties: parents, providers, partners, etc. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be classes on Developing Caring and Empathy in the Young Child and Learning Environments from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM at the KCC satellite campus (Innovation and Learning Center). Melinda will email flyers to Vicky and Amy who will distribute them around the county.

**7. Health Providers Updates**

**a. Summer Lunch Program**

Vicky reported on behalf of Krystal Albertson that Lake Health District is working on the 2018 Summer Lunch program. They had 5 sites last year and are hoping to host 6-8 sites in 2018. Tonight there will be a

partners planning dinner at 5:30 at Jerry's restaurant. Sharon confirmed with Vicky that the Fremont/Hay Kinder Camp is one of the additional sites. Sharon reported that Lorena McClain will be able to pick up food and deliver it to the site.

**b. Public Health**

Jill reported that she has 5 in the Cocoon program, 2 in Babies First, and 2 referrals. Ariana is working with Public Health to reconnect with Hispanic families. Currently there are not any Hispanic families receiving visits, but when there is a need, Ariana will be able to provide the visits.

**c. Mental Health**

Jennifer reported that they had 2 full-time case managers who have since left. They do have one position rehired. They did provide Strengthening Families parenting classes and had 2 families attend consistently. They hope to resume the series after a break of 2-3 weeks at the end of the current sessions. Staff are working on getting food handler's licenses so they can do more with food at these events. Jill noted that food is key for good attendance. Jennifer that when they moved to the Marius building where child services were separated from adults, they went from 15 clients to 50 clients. They have outgrown the current space and are looking for solutions. They are working with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health to recruit and train new therapeutic foster homes. They have recruited 2 with a goal of 3-6 per county. They also offer family respite sessions on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and Thursdays 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. They can take in up to 6 children per session, and the referral process is short. Mike confirmed that respite is available now for a family in need and it is.

**8. Parent/Guardian Updates**

None were present.

**9. Other Committee Member Updates**

Amy reported that the first book order in January had over 150 children registered. She thanked the various home visitors for their dedication in signing their clients up.

**10. LICC Meeting/Updates**

**a. Program Status**

Mike reported the program currently has 21 children total on IFSP's. Six children are in the EI program and 15 in the ECSE program. The program will qualify a newly identified child tomorrow bringing us to 22 children on IFSP's

**b. Referral/Evaluation**

Mike reported the program currently has 3 children in the evaluation process all of whom will qualify for services. One additional child will likely be referred for testing early next week. One of the children in the referral process is an EI aged child with significant needs. Regions services from the Southern Oregon Education Service District will be needed for the child moving forward. The program has contacted a specialist from SOESD and they are scheduled to meet the family for an assessment next week. The family is also utilizing therapy services from the hospital here in Lakeview.

**c. SPR&I**

Mike reported the program has not heard anything back from Oregon Department of Education on the submitted data from our compliance review in January.

**d. Transitions**

Mike reported the program is meeting with Lake County School District #7 staff tomorrow to qualify and write a transition plan for a child. This is the child that will bring the count to 22. This is our first transition meeting for a child entering kindergarten next fall. The child will technically be on an IEP with the ECSE program providing services at Head Start through May of this year. In the fall the service provision will move to ESD and school age programs. The program will have 7 more children that will transition to district #7 next fall. One of those 7 will be reevaluated in this spring. The child is doing well and could exit special education services before entering kindergarten.

**Next meeting date is Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 1:30 PM at the Lake County ESD.**