KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

April 24, 2024 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Dena Haudenshild
Lalo Barraza
Joseph Maurer
Phillip Squibb
Christy Hampton
Kayla Ratty
Maurita Johnson
Jessie DuBose
David Elliott
Kay Ortega
Sherrie Ardolino
Gillian Wesenberg
Vanessa Pingleton
Athena Wikstrom
Ronda Osborn
Danielle Walker

Please note: For ease of member access, South-Central Early Learning Hub – Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

Welcome and Introduction

The Klamath PAC reviewed and approved the March minutes. Kathleen Walker-Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Maurita Johnson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion Passed.

South Central Early Learning Hub

Gillian Wesenberg shared the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) hired BUILD to facilitate meetings between the DELC, the Early Learning Council (ELC), and Hubs. Meetings are focused on Objective 3 of Raise Up Oregon 2.0 with the purpose of identifying the role of the Hubs. The groups will continue meeting until December 2024, with BUILD reports coming out in the spring of 2025.

Gillian also shared the Hub contracted with Pacific Research and Evaluation (PRE) to help develop strategies for the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) grant. PRE hosted three feedback sessions for K-12 partners to collect information about kindergarten transitions and early literacy. The Hub thanks each of the school districts across the region for providing their Early Literacy Plans to further assist with the PRE process.

The Hub is accepting applications for an open KPI Program Facilitator position, which can be in Douglas, Klamath, or Lake County. The KPI Program Facilitator job listing and application can be found online at: https://www.applitrack.com/douglasesd/onlineapp/JobPostings/view.asp?FromAdmin=true&AppliTrackJobId=2734.

Athena Wikstrom advised that all regional Preschool Promise slots are currently full. The Hub is still accepting Preschool Promise applications for the current 2023-2024 school year and has started accepting new student applications and returning student forms for the 2024-2025 year. Family feedback shows Preschool Promise families are appreciative of their sites and teachers and are excited to return next year.

Apply for Preschool promise online at southcentralhubenrollment.com.

The Hub's Family Governance Advisory Committee is currently working with Mitten Mommas on an "All About Me" self-advocacy one-pager. The document includes sections for child needs, diagnoses, milestones, sensory needs, medications, favorite foods, favorite books and so forth. It is intended to support parents in appointments and meetings about their child. If you know of any families who would be interested in joining the Family Advisory Committee, contact Athena at Athena.wikstrom@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Danielle provided an overview of Community UPLiFT. Community UPLiFT connects expecting families, families with children birth to five, and up to the age of 21 with special needs, to resources in the community. Families can self-refer themselves to Community UPLiFT or be referred by a community partner. Family Resource Facilitators (FRF) reach out to a family and complete a questionnaire with them to determine needs. FRFs offer referrals to programs of the family's choice. Community partners reach directly out to the family, reducing the need for families to navigate services on their own.

Community UPLiFT is a closed loop referral system. Once a FRF connects with a family, they reach back out to the referring organization to provide an update. Community UPLiFT asks partners who receive referrals to complete a feedback form to indicate if a family was reached, if they accepted services, or if they were placed on a waitlist.

For more information about Community UPLiFT, contact Danielle Walker at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Community UPLiFT 30-second public service announcements are available at:

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

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

Behavioral Health – Community Presentation

Squibb Counseling Services, LLC - Philip Squibb joined the Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) to share about Squibb Counseling Services, LLC. Squibb Counseling Services provides counseling to individuals aged four through adulthood. The practice was originally intended to serve adults but shifted focus to better meet the needs of the community. Squibb Counseling is currently working in six schools, including Chiloquin High School, Chiloquin Elementary, Keno Elementary, Stearns Elementary, Klamath Union High School, and Brixner Middle School. Early Childhood is a small percentage of clients, with the largest client base in kindergarten through sixth grade age-range. Children are typically referred to the practice due to disruptive behaviors in school.

For early childhood and early elementary age-ranges, the target approach is predominantly working with parents and the family system. It is important to develop systems within the home, develop structure, build behavior modification plans, and encourage a higher-level of mental health skills.

Therapists currently provide one hour of counseling per week per individual and do case management. The practice found that therapist's time would be better utilized doing clinical hours rather than case management, so they started the state process to add peer support and case management personnel in the practice.

Can you currently add young children to your case load?

Squibb Counseling contracts with the schools to be in the school setting a certain amount of time, which makes scheduling more difficult if a child is not enrolled in the school setting Squibb Counseling is contracted in. If a family can pull a child out of class during school hours, adding them into the case load would not be too difficult. But, if the family wanted time after school, availability to be seen would start closer to the summer months.

About 80% of Child Protective Service screening calls are the result of domestic violence. There is a lot of time and energy spent addressing the result. There is a need to find upstream initiatives to address domestic violence. Do you have thoughts on domestic violence in the home causing some of the behaviors that are seen in school settings?

Squibb Counseling files numerous reports with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) due to the nature of their relationships with students. The situation is delicate because they are trying to build a relationship with the family of the student they are providing services to. Making a report to ODHS damages the relationships with families, who typically end counseling services once a report is filed. Counselors attempt to identify if there is anyone else in the family that might benefit from counseling services, then give them priority on the waitlist to receive counseling services to have a family-centered approach.

To inquire about Squibb Counseling Services, LLC, visit www.squibbcs.com or contact Squibb Counseling Services at admin@squibbcs.com

Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) - David Elliott and Sherrie Ardolino with Cascade Health Alliance joined the Klamath PAC conversation to discuss the ongoing work around the Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) metric around social-emotional health for children ages birth to five. CCOs are building asset maps of available behavioral health resources that can serve children ages birth to five. CHA surveyed each of the behavioral health providers and patient-centered primary care homes with behavioral health attached, that CHA contracts with. Data collected included a two-month snapshot of behavioral health availability over the past year. Behavioral Health Providers are working at about 82% capacity. There is some room to engage individuals in behavioral health services. Providers start hitting burnout at about 90% of the provider's capacity.

The behavioral health provider survey will be starting again in the next few months with an additional component. The survey will include contracted behavioral health providers, patient-centered primary care homes, plus Community Based Organizations that offer behavioral health services.

Behavioral Health – Discussion

Barriers for behavioral health: lack of providers specializing in services for young children, lengthy waitlists, lack of provider consistency, time between appointments.

A lot of people don't recognize there is need for behavioral health services for children age birth to five. There is not a current, heavy demand for services. If demand picks up, there could be a large gap in services. In Klamath County, about 7% of children on Oregon Health Plan (OHP) have a Behavioral Health touchpoint per year. If the number increased to 10%, the current behavioral health capacity of 18% would be diminished to 0%.

Families have shared that they will not engage in services if the family does not have the capacity to continue pursuing care for their children. Ex. if waitlists are long or difficult to get on.

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) staff are not therapists but are special education teachers. None of the EI/ECSE training is around behavioral health services. EI/ECSE helps children reach their developmental milestones. A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) was added to the EI/ECSE team, but behavioral health is not in the scope of special education.

From the CCO perspective, individuals on Oregon Health Plan (OHP) do not understand how behavioral health services are received. The misconception is that individuals believe they need a referral from their primary care provider to be seen by a behavioral health provider, however that is not the case. A member on OHP can receive behavioral health services at any time they are perused. A benefits navigator to share information with individuals would be beneficial in spreading accurate information about behavioral health services.

Partner Updates

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), Care Connections & Education -- Heather Freilinger was unable to attend due to a conflict. Gillian shared the Care Connections and Education update on Heather's behalf.

The number of child care providers in Klamath County increased from 102 in April 2023 to 115 in April 2024. There are nine individuals currently in the process of becoming child care providers in Klamath County. Care Connections & Education offered 233.5 hours of training opportunities from July 2023-March 2024. One-hundred fifty-four individuals participated in the training opportunities.

The child care Start-up & Expansion Grant for new providers and providers wishing to expand their services, received 22 applications from Douglas County providers, 18 from Klamath County providers, and two from Lake County. Grant awards will be announced in May 2024.

Senate Bill 1040 passed during the 2023 legislative session, requiring the Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) to create a Micro-Center Pilot Program. Applications for the Micro-Center Pilot Program are now open. The primary goal of the Micro-Center Pilot Program is to identify and ease barriers to licensing that make it harder for successful operations of small capacity programs in underserved communities. The data collected during the pilot will help with guiding the development of future regulations and policies that may help small capacity programs' viability. The information shared by participants will be used in a legislative report that will be completed at the end of the pilot. The information may be used for other legislative workgroups that are currently addressing barriers for child care programs that desire to expand their businesses.

Applications can be submitted online at: Department of Early Learning and Care : Micro-Center Pilot Program : For Providers : State of Oregon.

The Spring Fling Conference with Keynote Speaker Chris Singer is on Saturday, April 27 at Klamath Community College (KCC). Early Bird registration has passed, but those interested in attending the conference can still register with a fee of $50.

Klamath Promise – Jessie DuBose – The Graduation Sensation is on May 30, with the parade starting at noon. Kindergarteners will be parading in front of graduating seniors this year. Volunteers are needed to monitor kindergarteners during the parade. Contact Jessie DuBose at jessie_dubose@soesd.k12.or.us if you are available to volunteer.

Applications for Graduation Sensation awards and scholarships are now open to graduating seniors, and there are awards for everyone going into the workforce or into college. The award and scholarship application closes on May 17th. Scholarship App Link: https://tinyurl.com/klamathpromise2024.

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) – Maurita Johnson - Doris Duke Grant update - Think of Us, a non-profit organization is visiting ODHS the second week of May to do qualitative interviews from the family perspective. Another organization will be doing a larger research project on the family screen-out process. Work has not yet started but the organization will be collecting qualitative data and looking at quantitative administration data.

With the grant, there are some flexible funds to provide tangible goods and services for families. ODHS staff are working on a business process to access funding from the Doris Duke Foundation.

Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC) - Kathleen Walker-Henderson – Two Hundred thirty children attended the April Children's Learning Fair with twenty-nine vendors. The Klamath Chapter of the ORAEYC would like to thank everyone for hosting booths and for sharing about the event with children and families.

Klamath Community College (KCC) Foundation – Kathleen Walker-Henderson – The KCC Gala, a fundraising dinner for student scholarships, was hosted on April 20. The KCC Foundation will host a State of the Foundation networking event on June 4 from 5:30-7:30. During the event, they will draw for the Spruce Up Your Life Raffle. Spruce Up Your Life Raffle tickets are being sold online at: https://www.klamathcc.edu/en-US/foundation/education-makes-a-difference/spruce-up-your-space-raffle.html.

Klamath Falls City School District – Dena Haudenshild – The Klamath Falls City Schools (KFCS) Kindergarten Roundups are on the same day and time at each of the four elementary locations. Kindergarten Roundup will be May 21, 2024, from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm.

The KFCS Jump Start Kindergarten program will be hosted Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – noon from August 5 to August 16, 2024. To participate, children must be KFCS students starting Kindergarten in fall 2024 and should register for the school they will be attending. Registration for Jump Start Kindergarten is available online at https://form.jotform.com/KFCS/kfcs-jumpstart-pre-k-2024.

Dena shared the Klamath County School District (KCSD) Kindergarten Roundup and Jump Start Kindergarten programs. The Klamath County School District has dates and times for Kindergarten Roundups available online at: https://www.kcsd.k12.or.us/district/kindergarten-roundup.cfm. The Klamath County School District will also be offering a Jump Start Kindergarten Program and will be offering some additional summer programming. Information will be available on the Klamath County School District web site but is not yet available.

Adjourn 11:26 am

Next Meeting:

May 22, 2024, from 10 am to noon.