

# LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

November 18, 2025 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

## Attendance

Lane Stratton (v)  
Michael Benson (v)

Miranda Philibert  
Bailey Guido

Athena Wikstrom  
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.

Approval of the May 2025, September 2025, and November 2025 Lake Community Governance Council meeting minutes will take place in January 2026 as a quorum was not present.

**Lake County ESD** - Lane shared that Adel had a planned power outage today. He delivered a generator to the school this morning so they could continue operating.

The preschool program in Adel is under review due to inconsistent attendance. Some days there are no children, and other days there is only one child present. The current structure with two staff teachers is complex to maintain with low student attendance.

**Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)** – Lane reported significant increases in EI/ECSE referrals, noting that seven to nine new children have entered the program recently. Due to the growing workload, Lake County ESD is considering hiring additional support for EI/ECSE.

Michael shared that he meets monthly with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), and children entering foster care from birth to age three are required to receive an assessment from EI/ECSE to determine if a full evaluation is needed. Several sibling groups have entered foster care in recent months, partially contributing to the rise in referrals.

Michael also provided an update on the upcoming federal count for December. There are currently 15 children enrolled in EI/ECSE services, eight open evaluations, two pending referrals, and two additional children being monitored before referral. Michael is working on developing a new tracking system for himself, as current processes do not keep pace with 10 to 12 evaluations and a full caseload.

**Klamath Family Head Start Lakeview Site** – Lane shared the Lakeview Head Start update for Shalom, who was unable to attend. Lakeview Head Start is fully enrolled with a waitlist. They are currently looking to hire one teacher and one aide. The Lakeview site installed a new playground with a shade structure through a grant. Head Start continues to face challenges with the geothermal system while seeking a long-term solution. The hospital is preparing to take over management of the town’s geothermal system now that the city is no longer overseeing it. Staff are looking forward to upcoming events, including a family night and a Friendsgiving gathering.

**Lake County Public Health** -- Miranda advised that immunization deadlines are approaching. The exclusion date this year is February 25, 2026, and she has already been in communication with the schools about the immunization requirements.

**Take Root Parenting Connection** -- Bailey reported that the fall programming schedule is wrapping up and that the winter schedule will be released before winter break. Since returning from maternity leave, Take Root has hired two new staff members to support facilitation and child care, ensuring consistent child care availability for programming. The Lakeview team now includes five staff members willing to travel throughout Lake County. Bailey shared that the one-time workshop, Routines for Family Success, had 19 registered participants and around eight attendees. Take Root has also partnered with the hospital to support two classes that

needed blended funding and coordinated schedules: a six-week healthy cooking class and a childbirth education series. Both are taking place tonight, with the cooking class full with a waitlist, and the childbirth class reaching its highest attendance in years. The final childbirth class will be held soon. On December 19 Take Root will host a winter family crafts event offering free, take-home craft activities.

Bailey also noted an uptick in ODHS referrals, something her counterpart in Klamath County has also observed. She reminded the group that Take Root always provides certificates of attendance and that families are not required to disclose ODHS involvement, although some choose to. If a family is required to take a specific parenting class, Take Root is typically able to help connect them with the required classes.

Athena added that ODHS has confirmed an overall increase in the number of children entering foster care in recent months.

**South-Central Early Learning Hub** - Athena shared that the South-Central Early Learning Hub Strategic Plan will be sent out to Lake County partners for review. The plan incorporates contributions from all community partners, not just Hub staff. The Hub is requesting feedback to ensure accuracy, alignment with current priorities, and inclusion of any missing areas—particularly those relevant to Lake County. Although DELC does not require a Strategic Plan, the Regional Governance Council prioritizes maintaining an up-to-date version.

Athena also noted that families have recently received their SNAP benefits after the government shutdown delayed payments. Considering the funding delays, rising food costs, and the possibility of families losing benefits under new SNAP rules, the Hub created food insecurity resource documents for the region. Resource documents include where to find pantry locations and hot meals, and tips to stretch food and budgets.

She also discussed the Hub's Equity Lens. The Equity Lens was created by Hub partners in 2019 and prompts reflection on diversity, equity, and inclusion, including biases, how decisions impact families, and the unintended consequences or barriers that may arise. The Hub will send out the Equity Lens with the Strategic Plan for review. If partners notice language that should be updated to better align with equity priorities, feedback is welcome.

Athena shared information about Little Free Libraries across the region and in Lake County. Lake County Little Free libraries are in Lakeview, Adel, and Plush. The focus of these libraries is early literacy for children ages birth to five. Libraries are being stocked with books in English, Spanish, Farsi, Tagalog, and bilingual options. Suggestions about additional languages are welcome. Athena checked in with Lane to see if staff who travel to Adel and Plush could help keep the libraries stocked. Lane shared that a staff member regularly travels to four schools and could help distribute books. Adel and Plush may have Spanish-speaking families with children, and Paisley currently has one Spanish-speaking family enrolled.

Danielle mentioned that the regional Family Governance Advisory Committee will hold its informational meeting for families in Klamath and Lake Counties on November 19 at 6:00 pm on Zoom. Currently, no families from Lake County are registered. Lane recommended posting the announcement on the Lakeview Announcements Facebook page.

**Additional Business:** The group discussed the upcoming meeting schedule. The meeting originally planned for December 16 at 12:00 pm, will be canceled due to winter break. The group will resume meeting in January.

**Next Meeting:** January 27, 2026, at 1:00 pm.

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