

# REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

## Meeting Notes

September 10, 2025 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

### Attendance

Steve Schenewerk  
Nancy Hauth  
Michael Carter  
Dena Haudenschild  
Maurita Johnson

Heidi McGowan  
Analia Nicholson  
Julie Hurley  
Heather Freilinger  
Alysha Barraza

Vanessa Pingleton  
Athena Wikstrom  
Danielle Walker

For ease of member access, Regional Governance Council (RGC) meetings will continue to be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

### Welcome and Introductions

Chair, Steve Schenewerk, welcomed members of the Regional Governance Council (RGC) and individuals introduced themselves.

Members of the Regional Governance Council reviewed June 2025 minutes. Michael Carter motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Maurita seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

### Early Learning Hub Update

Heidi East McGowan began by providing a reminder about the governance structure of the South-Central Early Learning Hub. In 2014, regional leaders came together to form the South-Central Early Learning Hub and established the current governance framework. This framework includes Professional Advisory Committees and Governance Councils across the three-county region. In Klamath and Douglas Counties, there are two decision-making bodies, while Lake County has one. Each committee includes representatives from the state-required sectors. Heidi emphasized that the chairs of these committees, representing each county, come together as the voting members for the Regional Governance Council. She noted that as the group discusses the new Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) Hub rules, it's helpful to reflect on the original process the region underwent to establish this governance structure.

Nancy Hauth, the Early Learning Hub System Analyst for DELIC, joined the Regional Governance Council to provide an update on new Early Learning Hub rules. Nancy and her colleague, Maria, who also serves as an Early Learning Hub System Analyst, provide support to the 16 Early Learning Hubs across the state of Oregon, with Nancy specifically supporting the South-Central Early Learning Hub region.

Nancy provided a detailed timeline of the rulemaking process that began in January 2024. This process was a year-long engagement designed to refine and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Early Learning Hubs across the state. The rules process involved collaboration with BUILD Initiative, DELIC, the Early Learning Council (ELC), sector partners, and Hubs.

In June 2024, the "Roles All Hubs Share" document was released. This document reflected the outcomes of the year-long engagement, summarizing the consensus on the core roles that all hubs should perform. According to Nancy, this was a significant achievement as it provided clear guidelines for hubs, addressing the previous difficulty in articulating a unified approach for all hubs.

In February 2025, the rule making process moved into its next phase: formal rule development. This included holding listening sessions with Hub Directors and Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) recruitment. In March 2025, there was a presentation to the ELC about the rules process and an agreement to return to the ELC in June 2025 for adoption of the new ruleset. Nancy highlighted the high level of engagement from the RAC, noting that the process was very

inclusive, with all but two of the Hub regions being represented. Over 63 applicants to join the RAC were received, with only 15 RAC spots, which led to an expansion of the committee to 20 members due to the high level of interest.

One of the key areas of focus in the new rule set was the Governance Structure. Nancy highlighted several important changes including Governance Council definition; Governance Council representation requirements; Backbone entity representation; Hub Director roles; Bylaws and Governance Documentation; priority populations and parent / caregiver representation; and support for representation gaps. The Governance Council is now explicitly defined as a multi-sector council with decision-making authority. This is a critical point, as it solidifies the Governance Council's role as the main decision-making body for hubs, ensuring that it has both authority and responsibility. The rules now provide a more detailed explanation of the sectors that are required to be represented on the Governance Council, which include:

- Health
- Early Learning and Care
- Public Education
- Human Services
- Housing
- Higher Education and Workforce Development
- Business
- Hub Administration – New structures and guidelines were introduced for hub operations and leadership.
- Backbone Entity Structure – This rule clarified the relationship between the hubs and the backbone entities that support them.
- Hub Governance Structure – Significant changes were made to the governance model.
- Hub Director Role – This rule outlines the responsibilities of the Hub Director in a more structured and detailed way.
- Data Collection and Reporting – There are now more explicit requirements for how hubs collect data and report on their activities, ensuring accountability and alignment with state goals.

Nancy emphasized that this multi-sector approach ensures the Governance Council has a broad perspective and can make informed decisions that address the diverse needs of the community. For the South-Central Early Learning Hub, the required sectors are represented on the Professional Advisory Committees for each county and the chairs for each committee acts as the liaison between county committees and the Regional Governance Council.

In June 2025, the ELC formally adopted the full set of rules. The new rules are set to take effect on October 1, 2025, for the beginning of the new grant agreement cycle running through September 30, 2026. Nancy shared that this is a short-term grant agreement, after which the usual two-year grant cycle will resume, aligning with the timelines followed by other DELC grantees.

Nancy explained that several existing rules were expanded and clarified, such as some rules around hub functions and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which were integral to measuring the effectiveness of the hubs.

In addition to these clarifications, five new rules were introduced, focusing on the following areas:

The rules now state that, unless an exception is granted by DELC, backbone entities can designate only one representative to serve on the Governance Council. The backbone representative cannot hold a leadership role within the backbone entity.

The Hub Director does not fulfill the role of the backbone entity's representative. This distinction was made to ensure that the Hub Director focuses on hub operations, while the backbone entity's representative can bring a broader, organizational perspective.

Nancy noted that the rulemaking process was shaped by extensive feedback from various stakeholders, including Hub directors, Backbone entities, public feedback sessions, and internal consultations. This engagement allowed the team to refine the rules and make them as clear and universally applicable as possible. The extensive feedback helped to ensure the rules were practical and comprehensive.

The Governance Council is required to have a set of bylaws or other governing documents to guide its operations. Nancy explained that this rule ensures that councils operate with clear, transparent guidelines. In some cases, Hubs only had bylaws related to the backbone entity, but this rule ensures that Hubs have their own governance structure and bylaws, which are more tailored to their specific needs.

Governance Councils must include representatives from priority populations as determined by the governance council. There must be at least one parent or caregiver representative to ensure that families' voices are heard in decision-making processes. For regions with federally recognized tribes, a position must be made available for tribal representation.

If a Governance Council is unable to include representatives from all required sectors or categories, they should reach out to DELC for assistance. This support would help fill gaps and ensure that the council can meet the state's expectations.

Nancy introduced the Caring Communities Tour, a statewide initiative that was launched in February 2025. This tour aims for DELC leadership to visit all Hub regions in Oregon over a two-year period. The goal of the tour is to deepen the connection between leadership and local communities, listen to regional experiences, and celebrate local strengths and innovations. The South-Central region is tentatively scheduled for a visit in May 2026.

The tour is a collaborative effort between DELC, Early Learning Hubs, and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agencies. Nancy explained that the tour allows leadership to visit local communities, hear from families, providers, and early childhood leaders, and strengthen the relationships that support DELC's investments. The tour is designed to be flexible, with a focus on highlighting local successes and unique needs.

Nancy noted that these tours often include site visits, such as preschool tours or kindergarten transition programs in action. However, she emphasized that the most valuable part of these visits is typically the small group discussions during lunch, where local leaders can surface and discuss key issues, fostering productive conversations with state leadership.

Nancy clarified that, given the size and geographic spread of the South-Central region, the tour would likely take two days to accommodate the unique characteristics of the different counties. She mentioned that DELC will work closely with the region's leadership to ensure that the tour is logistically feasible and supports the various communities that will be visited.

### Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Update

Heather Freilinger provided an update on Every Child Belongs (ECB). Information is available online at <https://conta.cc/4n4qhv2>. Heather began by noting that this effort is the result of legislation that will take effect in July 2026, establishing new requirements that eliminate the suspension and expulsion of children in early learning programs. The legislation was developed in response to concerns raised by families who had observed children being excluded from programs at high rates. The state's goal is to significantly reduce the removal of children from child care programs by requiring programs to consider alternative solutions and by providing additional support to providers. Alongside the legislative direction, funding has been made available to regions to build the systems and capacity necessary to implement this work. Supports that will be provided to child care professionals include Behavioral Health Supports for providers, classroom observations, continued CCR&R supports, and education for early learning professionals.

Heather explained that a regional steering committee for ECB was convened to guide planning. This group, with leadership from Athena and Gillian and participation from Heidi and others, worked over about seven months to identify what structures would be needed for effective implementation. The process included listening sessions with child care providers, mental health professionals, Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO), community members, CCR&R staff who support providers, and families, ensuring that multiple perspectives were represented in the recommendations. The committee ultimately advised that Douglas ESD should serve as the backbone agency to hold the grant, while CCR&R should function as the regional service provider, given its established and direct connections with child care providers across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. Many other regions in Oregon have adopted

similar structures, with CCR&Rs taking on the regional service provider role, although in some communities, different approaches were chosen.

The state adopted the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation model as the foundation of ECB. Under this model, providers who are struggling with challenging behaviors or who may be considering expulsion will be able to request support from trained consultants. These consultants will partner with providers to understand the situation, observe in classrooms if needed, and collaborate on strategies to better support the child and the provider. The emphasis is on building the provider's capacity to manage challenges while preventing the removal of children from child care.

Oregon is currently piloting this consultation model in three regions of the state, the South-Central region is not included in the current pilot. The pilots are focused on finalizing training for newly hired consultants as well as for intake staff who will respond to provider requests and determine appropriate support. Care Connections & Education, the CCR&R serving Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties has the benefit of prior experience, as Douglas County has hosted an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant for the past four years through a philanthropy grant from The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF). Portland State University (PSU) has evaluated that project and shared findings that have been shared statewide and have influenced the broader development of ECB. The consultant for Douglas County, Summer Swan, has been serving in the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant role for several years and will continue as part of the new initiative.

Heather underscored that funding for this work is extremely limited. The grant provides only one full-time equivalent (FTE) to serve all three counties, which poses significant challenges given the geographic size of the region and the distances between communities. The plan for the first year is to focus on building capacity in Klamath County, while continuing to provide support in Douglas County where the work is already established. Summer Swan will continue to be the lead consultant and will travel to Klamath County approximately two days per month to provide in-person consultation. She will also offer support virtually.

To strengthen local capacity, CCR&R intends to hire a part-time staff member in Klamath County. This individual will be trained and supported with the goal of developing into a certified consultant over time. Initially, the local staff will assist with Summer's visits, participate in trainings, and provide on-the-ground support. Heather noted that training requirements for consultants are extensive, including participation in reflective supervision and additional professional development, and it will take time for a new hire to reach full readiness. However, investing in local capacity is essential to ensuring that the region is positioned for future growth as the state considers additional funding allocations.

In addition to staffing, CCR&R has equipment available to help bridge gaps in direct support. Before the end of the last biennium, the program purchased video equipment that can be deployed to providers. With parent permission, providers will be able to use this equipment to capture and share examples of challenges occurring in their classrooms. Consultants can then review the video remotely, allowing for more responsive support even when in-person visits are not immediately possible. While not an ideal solution, this approach offers an important tool for extending the reach of limited staff resources.

Heather clarified that in the early stages, the volume of consultation requests is not expected to be overwhelming. Experience from other states suggests that requests begin slowly and increase gradually as providers become more familiar with the service. Currently, there is no requirement for providers to access mental health consultation; however, such a mandate may be implemented in the future. For now, the priority is raising awareness, building trust, and establishing effective processes so that when providers do reach out, they receive meaningful support.

Heather concluded by emphasizing both the opportunities and the challenges ahead with ECB. The region benefits from having an experienced consultant in place and from the relationship CCR&R has with providers. However, the limited funding of one FTE across three counties requires creative solutions, strong partnerships, and deliberate efforts to build local capacity across the region. Heather stressed that this is not a quick fix; true impact will come through sustained partnership with providers, careful implementation of strategies, and ongoing support to ensure providers can translate consultation into practice in their classrooms.

Heather provided additional information related to professional development and current support available to providers. She announced that CCR&R, in partnership with TFFF, is organizing a Courageous Care Summit to be held in

both Douglas and Klamath Counties. The event is designed to equip early learning professionals with tools and strategies for addressing complex and challenging behaviors.

The Douglas County Courageous Care Summit is scheduled for November 14 and 15, 2025. The Courageous Care Summit is designed for child care professionals who are eager to deepen their skills when working with complex and challenging behavior. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Amy King, who will present on her Clarity Model that will lead professionals through exploring practical strategies that foster competence and compassion. Attendees will engage in real-world case scenarios submitted by their peers, creating a collaborative and relevant learning experience. Dr. Amy will also lead breakout sessions tailored for provider owner-operators and center directors. Additional breakout sessions will be facilitated by staff from Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) and CCR&R. Heather explained that the two-day format is intended to increase access and equity by offering identical content on both a Friday and a Saturday, thereby accommodating center staff working a five-day week as well as home-based providers who may not be able to close during the week. A follow-up convening is planned for January to revisit and reinforce the content. Planning for the Klamath County Summit is underway.

She highlighted existing partnerships with EI/ECSE noting that children who qualify for services can access child-focused supports that are coordinated directly with providers and families. CCR&R also offers Coaches, Trainers, and Quality Improvement Specialists who can support providers in developing inclusive practices and addressing classroom challenges.

To improve navigation of these resources, CCR&R is developing a Quick Start Guide for providers. This guide will outline available community services, including ECB consultation once it is implemented, and will provide clear directions on when and how providers should contact each resource. A consultant is currently assisting with the development of the guide, which will then be reviewed by stakeholders in Klamath and Lake Counties to ensure it is responsive to regional needs.

Heather noted that Klamath Community College (KCC) and Umpqua Community College (UCC) both offer education cohorts that allow early learning educators to pursue degrees or credentials with most or all costs covered. Heather reiterated that many supports are currently in place and should not be overlooked while waiting for ECB to be rolled out.

Heather provided a report on childcare capacity and vacancies across the region. Child care providers are required to identify both a licensed capacity and a desired capacity. The distinction is significant, as some providers voluntarily limit enrollment to align with personal considerations such as transportation logistics or a preference for managing smaller groups of children. This means the “desired capacity” often reflects what a provider chooses to serve rather than the maximum licensed capacity.

In Klamath County, the combined desired capacity across all programs is 1,839 slots, with 244 reported vacancies. Douglas County has a desired capacity of 2,175, with 270 vacancies, while Lake County has a capacity of 87 with 12 vacancies. Heather emphasized that, despite these vacancies, families often report difficulty accessing child care because child care availability is unevenly distributed across large geographic areas and do not always align with family needs.

Heather also described the ongoing pipeline of new providers entering the system. Across the three counties, CCR&R typically supports 30 or more prospective providers each month who are moving through the licensing or listing process. These efforts reflect a broader strategy to expand and stabilize the child care workforce while responding to community demand.

She presented additional details using Douglas County data as an example. In 2024, the county saw three new centers open, along with two certified family programs and seven registered family programs, resulting in an increase of 156 child care slots. However, during the same year, 14 programs closed, including one center, two certified family programs, seven registered family providers, and several preschool and school-age programs, resulting in a loss of 197 slots. This represented a net reduction in capacity.

In contrast, 2025 has shown stronger momentum. To date, nine new programs have opened across various types, bringing an additional 290 slots into the system. During the same period, five programs closed, representing a loss of

129 slots. This reflects a net increase in overall capacity and suggests that the region is beginning to gain ground again. Sometimes, closures do not mean a loss in the community, but rather means the program is evolving into a different type. For example, when a Registered Family provider closes to reopen as a Certified Family provider.

Participation in the Strong Start program has been high. The Strong Start program introduces new providers to peer networks, high-quality training, and additional support early in their provider development. This initiative, alongside broader recruitment and retention efforts, is contributing to growing confidence among providers and supporting steady gains in child care capacity across the region in 2025.

### Early Learning Hub Successes

Athena Wikstrom presented an overview of recent successes through investments previously approved by the Regional Governance Council, noting that these align closely with the Hub's Strategic Plan. She explained that the Strategic Plan is intentionally embedded within Raise Up Oregon ([https://www.oregon.gov/delc/about-us/RUO\\_Documents/2024-28\\_Raise\\_Up\\_Oregon\\_A\\_Statewide\\_Early\\_Childhood\\_System\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/delc/about-us/RUO_Documents/2024-28_Raise_Up_Oregon_A_Statewide_Early_Childhood_System_Plan.pdf)), the state's early learning strategic plan, to ensure alignment with statewide priorities. Athena further clarified that, under guidance received during the most recent revision of the Strategic Plan, the South-Central Early Learning Hub was required to encompass not only the work of Hub staff but also the activities of partner organizations, including Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO), CCR&R, Take Root, and many others. The approach produced a comprehensive regional early learning plan that reflects collective efforts across sectors. She noted that DELC has not yet issued updated guidance on whether future revisions should maintain a partner-inclusive approach.

Athena highlighted two major professional development initiatives funded this year to support the Every Child Belongs legislation, which takes effect July 2026. The first was a two-part training by Dr. Dawn Bailey and Spencer Corey of Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT), focused on De-Escalation Strategies and Preschool Life Skills. These trainings emphasized equipping providers with tools to support children's emotional regulation, maintain classroom cohesion, and mitigate behavioral escalation, as well as respond effectively to behavioral escalations.

The second training was Cards for Connection, provided by Dr. Amy King. This training introduced tools designed to build protective factors, strengthen family and child connections, and mitigate the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Dr. Amy provided data from pre- and post-surveys, along with follow-up surveys conducted months later, which demonstrated significant gains in participants' understanding of trauma, confidence in addressing behavioral challenges, and ability to provide interventions. Athena shared that every participant reported gaining knowledge of trauma's manifestations in children and families, with only one exception where a respondent misread the question. Participants also expressed increased confidence in building resilience and reported reduced burnout, an enhanced sense of organizational support, and—in every case—a stronger sense of hope that they could make a meaningful difference.

Athena emphasized the inclusive nature of the training cohort. Most participants identified as women, with additional representation from non-binary and gender-fluid participants. Both the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and the Klamath Tribes were represented, ensuring important tribal perspectives. Participants came from diverse roles, including child care providers, family advocates, and home visitors, with tenures ranging from fewer than five years to over two decades. Feedback from participants described the training as both professional and community-building, with appreciation for the continued access to support and consultation hours offered by Dr. Amy following the initial sessions.

Athena presented a report on the Family Governance Advisory Committee, now in its third year. She described the growth and leadership demonstrated by participating families, noting that some individuals who initially participated reluctantly are now leading efforts to contact business owners, establish Little Free Libraries, develop grant proposals, and create recruitment materials. The committee successfully secured and managed a grant, demonstrating strong capacity-building outcomes. Members determine their own agendas, priorities, and feedback processes, ensuring that the work remains authentically family-led.

The Family Governance Advisory Committee has engaged in multiple training sessions provided by the Mitten Mamas on Advocacy, the Hatch Act, Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), Individualized Family Support Plans (IFSPs), Conflict

Resolution, and Technology. Several members had never joined a virtual meeting before their involvement in governance activities, and the training process has significantly increased their skills and confidence.

Families collaborated on the development of an “All About Me” form designed to support communication across multiple service providers. The “All About Me” tool captures children’s preferences, sensitivities, comfort strategies, developmental milestones, and diagnoses, offering families a practical resource to streamline communication between parents/guardians and anyone working with their child.

Athena emphasized the sense of community the committee has built, noting that members provide mutual support, share responsibilities for communication, and demonstrate grace and understanding when participation is inconsistent due to personal circumstances. Their work has extended to placing Little Free Libraries throughout the region, curating culturally responsive and bilingual books, and creating workflows to manage communications and group responsibilities.

Athena noted that Gillian was invited to present to the ELC over the summer. This presentation highlighted the Hub’s efforts to elevate tribal voices and integrate them centrally into strategic planning and community engagement.

### Preschool Promise

Danielle Walker provided an update on Preschool Promise and Coordinated Enrollment activities. Nic Nacs Quality Child Care in Klamath County has chosen not to continue contracting with the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) for Preschool Promise. The South-Central Early Learning Hub requested that DELIC keep the nine Preschool Promise slots previously contracted to Nic Nacs within Klamath County. All families who had been enrolled at Nic Nacs were successfully placed into alternative Preschool Promise programs. Some families, however, elected to remain with Nic Nacs outside of Preschool Promise, which is a positive outcome for both the families and the provider.

The 2025-2026 program year began at the highest enrollment level the Hub has achieved since qualifying families for Preschool Promise. While most Preschool Promise slots are filled, a small number of openings remain. There are two openings at North Douglas in Drain, two openings in Sutherlin. Availability in Sutherlin was due to additional slots being granted to Victoria’s Home Daycare after the school year began. There are three vacancies at Honker Preschool in Lake County. In Klamath County, three slots are available at the YMCA, four at Gilchrist, and one at Little Learners. Availability in Sutherlin was due to additional slots being granted to Victoria’s Home Daycare after the school year began and the recent withdrawal of students. There is an active waitpool at Sutherlin, and those openings will be filled quickly. Similarly, the opening at Little Learners will likely be filled this week by students in the waitpool. Openings at Honker and the YMCA are also expected to be filled promptly through lottery draws, given the number of qualified applications on hand.

Danielle explained that compared to prior years, 2025 has seen reduced turnover among enrolled families, though there has been an increase in site transfers between programs within the region as well as across regions. Since Preschool Promise is a statewide program, the Hub regularly coordinates with other regional Hubs to share qualifications and facilitate placements for transferring families. Transfers are possibly attributed to earlier placement of students into programs, which may have allowed families more time to adjust their arrangements before the beginning of the school year.

### Community UPLiFT and Home Visiting Systems Coordination

Danielle presented the Community UPLiFT update. In August, Danielle had the opportunity to present to the Lake County Health Partnership about the South-Central Early Learning Hub, Preschool Promise, and Community UPLiFT. For the current quarter, beginning July 1, Community UPLiFT has received 92 referrals. Of these, 53 referrals were in Douglas County, 36 were in Klamath County, and three were in Lake County. Douglas County referrals have increased through regular participation in First Thursday events, which provide strong opportunities for community engagement. Referrals also typically increase during Preschool Promise enrollment periods, as the Preschool Promise application includes a question for Community UPLiFT and for EI/ECSE referrals.

Danielle reviewed quarterly report data for April 2025 through June 2025. The Hub has received a total of 1,720 referrals across the region since Community UPLiFT began in 2017. Total referrals include 991 in Douglas County, 698 in Klamath County, 25 in Lake County, and five in other counties.

Pregnancy Hope Center in Klamath County remains one of the Hub's strongest referral partners. Other referral sources include Preschool Promise applications, self-referrals, Hope Clinic for Women in Douglas County, Sutherlin School District, Sky Lakes Outpatient Care Management (OPCM), and others. The Sky Lakes OPCM team has agreed to laminating the Community UPLiFT business cards and carry them during home visits, which is expected to increase referrals in upcoming quarters.

Danielle reviewed a report of the organizations receiving referrals from Community UPLiFT. The report provides a breakdown of referrals sent by county, with year-over-year comparisons.

Julie shared that in Douglas County, the Business Champions for Kids program has begun incorporating Community UPLiFT into its outreach activities. The program is attending open enrollment meetings with local employers to share information with families, which is expected to generate additional self-referrals.

Vanessa presented updates on Home Visiting Systems Coordination. She reported that as of July 1, the regional coordination function officially transitioned from TFFF to the Center for Coordinating Oregon's Home Visiting Systems (CCOHVS).

The Klamath County membership for the Take Root / Home Visiting Systems / Family Support Leadership committee has expanded with new members from three programs: EI/ECSE, A Family Gathering Place, and Cascade Health Alliance (CHA).

Vanessa also highlighted progress in building parent leadership. In collaboration with Take Root Parenting Connection, Healthy Families, the Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) System of Care (SOC), and others, the region launched a parent leadership initiative. CHA committed \$1,000 in funding through the end of 2025 and pledged to cover the full cost of parent leadership activities in 2026. This funding will support reimbursements, meals, child care, and parent training for participating families, ensuring parents are able to contribute to system-level planning and decision-making.

The relief nursery in Klamath County, A Family Gathering Place, is extending outreach into Lake County, providing new support for families there.

The Connect, Care, and Share gatherings continue to be well-attended, and the committee is planning a regional public service announcement on the benefits of early childhood home visiting as well as a trauma-informed summit, both of which were identified as priorities during the April gathering. The coordination team is also examining how to improve communication between home visitors around shared families, ensuring that programs serving the same households are able to align support.

At the state level, CCOHVS Home Visiting Summit was held recently. Vanessa, Gillian, and Athena attended the Home Visiting Systems Coordination Summit. The summit addressed statewide challenges such as sustainable funding for regional coordination and strategies to strengthen systems in other areas of Oregon. The South-Central region was recognized as a model, with strong examples of successful implementation to share. Athena added that Dr. Irvin Brown's presentation on equity and engagement was particularly impactful, and reminded the group that Gillian now serves on the ELC's Home Visiting Systems Coordination Committee, which is currently the Council's only standing committee.

## Partner Updates

**Take Root** – Vanessa Pingleton – Take Root wrapped up the summer term and is finalizing its fall schedule. Highlights include ongoing Conscious Discipline training offered in a hybrid format from Klamath County, allowing families from across the region to participate. There was also a well-attended Tough Teens Talk event in Myrtle Creek, conducted in partnership with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. Vanessa added that Take Root is actively pursuing grant funding to expand programming in the coming year.

## Closing

With no additional business, the meeting adjourned

**Next Meeting:** December 11, 2025 at 11:00 am on Zoom.