

Attendance

Steve Schenewerk
Michael Carter
Rhonda Janecke

Dena Haudenschild
Gillian Wesenberg
Athena Wikstrom

Danielle Walker

The Budget Committee meeting was held virtually for ease of member access.

South-Central Early Learning Hub Budget Committee

The Governor’s recommended budget for the Department of Early Learning and Care (DEL) is current service level with a 2.7% cost of living increase. The Legislature is still meeting, so funding is still unclear.

On July 1, Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) funds will switch from being managed by Douglas ESD to being managed by the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH). The Hub will have an opportunity to redesign KPI, including the staffing structure and funding distribution.

The KPI spend-down is now approximately \$10,000. In the past biennium, there was a clerical error where \$30,000 in KPI summer funds were not requested by the Douglas ESD from the Early Learning Division (ELD), resulting in a loss of funding. The Budget Committee recommended that Steve will reach out to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Douglas ESD to find out if there is a chance the state would still release the unclaimed funds to the Hub. The group also requested Steve to ask, if funds were designated for the Hub and went unclaimed due to a clerical error at the ESD, why is the SCELH losing access to funds that were legislatively designated for Hub use?

SCELH Budget Committee members reviewed a request of \$2,500 from the Douglas County Childcare Coalition for childcare focus groups to be held in Douglas County. Members voted to decline the request as funds do not benefit all three counties.

KPI requested regional activity recommendations from the Budget Committee for the \$10,000 current KPI funding spend down. The Budget Committee reviewed and approved the KPI recommended funding allocation split equally for each county in the region.

- Douglas County \$3,333
- Klamath County \$3,333
- Lake County \$3,334

KPI requested each county submit their request for use of funds to Cynthia Hurkes and Julie Hurley by April 7, 2023. KPI will need to have a copy of the delivery receipt verifying materials were received no later than May 8, 2023, to ensure reporting to the Early Learning Division is completed in a timely manner.

The committee discussed un-expended funding. If designated funds go unspent and need to be expended with a quick turn-around, what would the budget committee recommend? Following discussion, the budget committee voted that if there any unspent funds totaling over \$1000, the Budget Committee must be called back together to approve allocation of the funds.

Next Meeting

To be determined

After the meeting, Julie notified the group there was an additional \$29,869 available as the lost funds would be covered by a Douglas ESD contingency account. On April 4, Steve sent an email to the Budget Committee making a motion to split the funds evenly between the three counties with Douglas and Klamath Counties receiving \$9,956 and Lake County receiving \$9,957. The Budget Committee members unanimously agreed to the even split via email.

SCOEL Budget Committee Resolutions

Feb 16, 2023

1. All Hub dollars coming from the state must be clearly presented to the Budget Committee who will then:
 - a). develop a budget proposal coordinated with available workplans from all Hub supported programs
 - b). propose budget to Regional Governance Council by March of each year
 - c). forward proposed budget to the Douglas Education Service District Budget Committee in a timely manner. (If the DESD Budget Committee or Full Board make adjustments to the Hub Budget - those funds from the Department of Early Learning and Care to the SCOELH – these adjustments with rationale will be presented in writing as soon as possible for discussion).
 - c). Reports will be presented to the Budget Committee by the DESD and Hub Staff regularly and then to the Regional Governance Council at least quarterly.
2. Any disbursement not included in the annual budget must be approved by the Regional Budget Committee and reported to the Regional Governance Committee as the earliest convenience.
3. The Regional Governance Council will work with the Hub staff to develop 3 – 5-year strategic plans for each Hub program. The Budget Committee will carefully consider these long-range plans when developing the annual budget.
4. The Regional Budget Committee may vote via email in the case of time sensitive decisions and these votes will be reported to the Regional Governance Committee at the next available meeting.