

# LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

January 27, 2026 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

## Attendance

Lane Stratton (v)  
Michael Benson (v)  
Miranda Philibert

Bailey Guido  
Shalom Rorabaugh  
Jake Greer

Jen Schulze  
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, November 2025, and January 2026 Lake Community Governance Council meeting minutes will take place in February 2026 as a quorum was not present.

The Lake County Community Governance Council discussed the potential to designate additional voting members and a potential change in scheduled meeting times to increase meeting attendance. Lane will connect with Athena to discuss options.

**Lake County Public Health** - Miranda Philibert shared that fall was an especially busy time for her. She noted that February 25 is the school exclusion date for immunizations, and she is working with school secretaries to gather immunization numbers, submit required information to the state, and send letters to parents regarding vaccination requirements and immunization exemptions.

**South-Central Early Learning Hub** -- Danielle Walker advised that Gillian is no longer with the South-Central Early Learning Hub, and Alysha Barraza is serving as interim director. At the most recent Regional Governance Council meeting, voting members passed a vote of no confidence in Douglas Education Service District (ESD) as the backbone organization for the Hub. The group is awaiting further guidance from the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). This period is an opportunity to work on strengthening the relationship between the Regional Governance Council and backbone organization, Douglas ESD. No additional information is currently available, and updates will be shared as they are received.

Danielle also overviewed the recently released Request for Application (RFA) for Early Literacy and Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) grants. This information was shared via email to the Lake County List Serv, and is available on the South-Central Early Learning Hub website at: <https://www.scelh.com/kindergarten-readiness-partnership-innovation/request-for-application>. The Hub is hoping to receive applications from across the region so funding can be distributed to community partners in ways that best meet local needs. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, government organizations, small businesses, and community partners, with awards of up to \$15,000 per entity for the 2025–2027 biennium. Funds are intended to be distributed equitably across the region, depending on qualified applications.

To be eligible, children and families served must reside in Douglas, Klamath, or Lake Counties, and those receiving professional development must serve families within the region. Preference will be given to programs serving the Hub’s priority populations, including families in geographically isolated areas; children experiencing displacement such as homelessness or foster or kinship care; families identifying as African American/Black, Asian, Hispanic/Latinx, or native Spanish speakers; families identifying as Native American or Tribal; children with physical or developmental delays, disabilities, behavioral health concerns, or trauma; and infants and children ages birth to three. Athena is the primary contact for questions, which must be submitted by February 13, 2026. Applications are due to Athena by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2025. Members were strongly encouraged to consider applying for and sharing the RFA with individuals who might be interested in applying, noting that innovative ideas are welcome.

An overview of the Hub's 2024–2025 fiscal year report was provided, with the full report to be shared following the meeting. The report includes some background information about the South-Central Early Learning Hub, as well as highlights from the past fiscal year.

Significant work was completed on the Every Child Belongs (ECB) initiative that legislatively eliminates suspension and expulsion in early learning settings. The Hub partnered with Pacific Research and Evaluation (PRE) to facilitate listening sessions identifying community strengths and needs. Based on community input and a steering committee process, the Hub formally recommended that Douglas ESD, in partnership with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), assume leadership ECB initiative, which is now being implemented.

The Hub also continued Coordinated Enrollment work. Staff qualify and enroll students into Preschool Promise sites, with a few exceptions for programs contracting directly with the state. For the 2024–2025 school year, the Hub enrolled for 263 Preschool Promise slots across the region. All Preschool Promise sites are currently full, except Gilchrist in Klamath County. Preschool Promise applications are accepted year-round, and preparations are underway to release both returning and new student applications for the 2026-2027 school year in the coming months. The Hub is also maintaining a list of families interested in applying for the 2026–2027 school year and will contact them once applications open.

Community UPLiFT programming was also highlighted. Community UPLiFT connects expecting families and families with children birth to five, and up to age 21 for those with special needs, to community resources. Staff are certified Community Health Workers (CHW). At the end of the fiscal 2024-2025 fiscal year, Community UPLiFT received 1,720 referrals across the region since inception in 2017. As of last week, Community UPLiFT received a total of 1,906. Referrals are accepted on an ongoing basis, and staff are available to provide presentations to partners interested in learning more about the Community UPLiFT or receiving referrals.

Additionally, the South-Central Early Learning Hub supports the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) program. During the fiscal 2024–2025 year, the Hub offered professional development with Dr. Dawn Bailey and Dr. Amy King and partnered with Kids in Transition to School (KITS) to provide educational resources to parents in rural and underserved communities. KITS programming was offered in both English and Spanish.

The Family Governance Advisory Committee also had a strong year, serving as a voice in decision-making, participating in personal and professional development, and successfully writing a grant for Little Free Libraries. During the reporting period, 12 Little Free Libraries were installed across the region. The Hub also participated in numerous in-person community events to connect with families, share information about Hub services, and promote early childhood programs supporting healthy development and school readiness. Athena participated in a few events in Lake County and plans to continue in-person outreach this year.

**Take Root Parenting Connection** -- Bailey Guido advised that the Take Root winter schedule for and registration is out and open for January through March. Two different flyers are available for the winter Take Root schedule, one specific to in-person Lake County offerings, and one for virtual offerings. Take Root recently launched an English-language series of Opening Doors, previously offered only in Spanish. Opening Doors has already started and is offered virtually on Mondays, but families can still register and participate. A Brilliant Science Night was hosted at Daly Middle School (DMS), offering hands-on activities enjoyed by the children and their families.

Upcoming events include an online Combating Sibling Rivalry session on January 29, an in-person Indoor Sensory Play Day in partnership with Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN) on Saturday, January 31 at the A.D. Hay gym, and a Read, Create, and Celebrate Valentine's event at Memorial Hall on February 11. Additional online programming and an in-person event in Christmas Valley are planned. Take Root is also partnering with Lake ESD to provide Family Engagement Boxes through Lake County food pantries, serving families with children ages 0–18.

Vanessa provided an update about a new self-paced parenting app Take Root is offering in partnership with the University of Oregon, called Family Check-Up. The app is available for families with children ages 11–14 and offers one year of access once enrolled. Families who complete the program and post-survey are eligible for a drawing for one of several \$50 gift cards. Vanessa noted that Take Root has been advocating with Oregon Parenting Education Collaboration (OPEC) to offer self-paced virtual options for families who have barriers committing to series-based programming. The app has the availability for families to access a live coach, but they can also opt out of the service.

**Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC)** -- Vanessa also advised that Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) is in early planning phases for a Home Visiting and Family Support gathering, which will likely be hosted in Jackson County. The gathering will include updates from the Center for Coordinating Oregon’s Home Visiting Systems (CCOHVS), and self-selected breakout sessions focused on resilience, trauma, and leadership. There is potential that travel reimbursement could be offered to attendees.

**Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)** -- Michael Benson reported that 19 children are currently on Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP), with two additional plans being drafted; one this week, and one next week. There are four evaluations in progress, and a couple of newly received referrals.

**Klamath Family Head Start Lakeview Site** -- Shalom Rorabaugh shared that the Lakeview site is fully staffed and has one opening for infants. Shalom is scheduled to attend and observe upcoming teacher home visits to see how teachers are navigating them and provide feedback. Klamath Family Head Start reported Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) student enrollment is currently at approximately 20%, which is higher than normal. Klamath Family Head Start is in preparation for the new five-year grant application and working on budgeting and planning.

**Honker Preschool** – Jen Schulze shared that Honker is currently full and doing great.

No additional program reports were provided, and the meeting concluded following an opportunity for questions.

**Additional Business:** None

**Next Meeting:** February 24, 2026, at 1:00 pm.

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