



REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

AGENDA

South Central Oregon Regional Economic Response/Recovery Team
July 21, 2020
3:00 – 4:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91725653885?pwd=RzJ3bjVnSjE0VDM5SjZ0eTM4RnRkZz09>

Meeting ID: 917 2565 3885

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- I. Governor's Office update – Annette Liebe, Regional Solutions Coordinator
 - a. EBoard De-brief
 - b. Status updates

- II. Childcare in Klamath and Lake Counties. What are we seeing as trends, needs, etc?
 - a. Gillian Wesenberg, Director, Early Learning Hub (Klamath, Lake and Douglas Counties)
 - b. Heather Freilinger, Director, Childcare Resource and Referral Network
 - c. Kathleen Mitchell, Director, Klamath Tribal Early Childhood Education Center

- III. COVID – 19 related enforcement
 - a. Michael Wood, Administrator, Oregon OSHA
 - b. Andrew Jurik, Regional Manager, OLCC

- IV. Roundtable (time permitting)

V. Adjourn



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MEETING SUMMARY

South Central Oregon Regional Economic Response/Recovery Team
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3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

EBoard De-brief

The Emergency Board approved \$30 million for Leave Fund for quarantined workers will be stood up at the Department of Consumer and Business Services, and \$35 million for \$500 payment to any Oregon worker impacted by job related income loss; goal is to target those waiting for unemployment benefits. The Department of Administrative Services is working to stand this program up. Annette will share more information as soon as it is available.

Damon Runberg: Oregon Employment Department

Damon Runberg with the Oregon Employment Department said the unemployment rate dropped from 15 percent to around 12 percent from May to June in Klamath County. This is dramatic improvement, though it comes after historical job losses. Lake County has largely avoided most COVID-related job losses, and its unemployment rate is among the lowest in the state. Unfortunately, many employees who were designated as “temporarily unemployed” are seeing their jobs eliminated permanently. A more traditional recession dynamic is also starting to form, with widespread decreases in demand for goods and services across industries.

Childcare in Klamath and Lake Counties

Gillian Wesenberg, Director of the Early Learning Hub in Klamath, Lake and Douglas counties, said childcare remains a challenge and a frustration for many parents in the region. COVID exacerbated the existing childcare shortage.

Heather Freilinger, Director of the Childcare Resource and Referral Network, said several grants have been allocated to childcare facilities so that they can remain open. She continues to communicate regularly with providers to help ensure all their needs are being met. There are almost 70 childcare providers in Klamath but only about 30 are currently open. Klamath County normally has about 2000 openings for childcare, and that number has been cut in half. This is a challenging time because more parents are now returning to work, though it’s hard to meet this demand. Lake County has no childcare facilities currently open.

Annette said the state has put out two rounds of grant funding for childcare facilities. She also asked how childcare providers would fit into the reopening of schools, with some districts going to a hybrid model where students only go to in-person school several times per week. Heather Freilinger said this is a difficult challenge, as most facilities seek children who are cared for full time. Family care and emergency child care are options, though both have limitations in this scenario. There is hope that the revised guidance will better accommodate child care providers to expand services to more families.

Kathleen Mitchell, Director of the Klamath Tribal Early Childhood Education Center, said the center is operating with limited hours in order to comply with safety restrictions. Staffing and spacing are the main challenges.

COVID – 19 related enforcement

Oregon OSHA Administrator Michael Wood said there are many rumors about inspections and large enforcement actions. OSHA staff do not collect fines on location, which is one myth he wanted to dispel. Oregon OSHA has jurisdiction over nearly all employers in the state with the exception of federal or tribal employees. The agency has received more than 7,000 complaints about COVID-19. Typically the agency receives about 2000 complains per year, so the volume is considerably higher during the pandemic. Oregon OSHA has conducted about 60 in-person inspections based on those complaints, though it handles most complaints with phone calls, emails, letters, etc. The number of complaints in both Lake and Klamath counties are roughly in line with per-capita rates. Michael said the agency enforces the state’s face-covering requirements because customers are a source of virus transmission to employees and employers are responsible for protecting their employees.

Andrew Jurik, the Regional Manager for the OLCC, said the agency visited many establishments over the July 4 holiday weekend and found a wide range of compliance and non-compliance. Customers and restaurants/bars are generally complying with spacing and face covering requirements more than they were a month ago. OLCC has conducted about 2000 checks on bars/restaurants since the face covering requirement started. A vast majority of violations are handled through education and verbal warnings, which has been effective.

Annette thanked the guests and members for their participation and adjourned the meeting.