

**ASHLAND GENERAL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
November 7, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ad Hoc Committee on Early Learning and Affordable Childcare.

The meeting was called to order at 11:08am.

Present: Paula Hyatt, Lisa Verner, Jessica Therkelson, Nancy Seward, and Kerrick Gooden

1. Land Acknowledgment - We acknowledge and honor the aboriginal people on whose ancestral homelands we work - the Iikrakutsum Band of the Shasta Nation, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today. We denounce the egregious acts of the colonizers and government and recognize the horrific impacts that still exist today. We honor the first stewards in the Rogue Valley and the lands we love and depend on: Tribes with ancestral lands in and surrounding the geography of the Ashland Watershed include the original past, present and future indigenous inhabitants of the Shasta, Takelma and Athabaskan people. We also recognize and acknowledge the Shasta village of K'wakhakha - "Where the Crow Lights" - that is now the Ashland City Plaza.

II. Regular Business

1. Early Learning Council Panel Presentation Debrief

Hyatt reported on this discussion from Oct 29 when Ashland shared its work as part of the panel.

Ashland has access issues for infant and toddler care with challenges for those that need full-time care. The needle has moved in Ashland more than the County on this and much of this is due to YMCA investment.

The biggest challenge for Ashland is staffing and burnout to maintain slots that are already up and running. 2/3 of providers have been injured on the job from challenging behaviors. Payscale is low while behaviors get worse -providers are exiting this profession and those staying work 2-3 jobs to make ends meet.

Committee discussed wanting this funding stream to continue in City budget come March- and the need for metrics of what was accomplished, new seats online, and socio-economic benefits. Hyatt will ask partners for anecdotal information.

Committee discussed other potential funding such as the Community Development Block Grant.

For December- outline how to keep work funded.....
Meet in December, January break, back in February.

2. Establish key committee contact for:
 - a. List Serve Creation
 - b. Southern Oregon Business Journal Article

Love will do a business journal article.
Hyatt will continue to maintain list serve
Two serves: Partners and Providers

Business partners list

3. Begin Outline for Business Engagement Work Plan

III. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:04pm