



Provider Supports Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2025 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols, and Introductions

Provider Supports Executive Committee member Julie Schroath welcomed members and completed introductions.

Review of Meeting Materials

Provider Supports Executive Committee member Julie Schroath led the group in the review of meeting materials.

- [October 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes](#)
- [December 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Feedback Loop](#)
- [Agency Updates](#)

Licensing Updates

DCYF’s Child Care Deputy Senior Administrator, Debbie Groff, Child Care Program Manager, Jennifer Gomes and WA Compass Product Owner, Michele Sampilo provided an update on the Post-Visit Licensing Survey. DCYF Assistant Secretary of Licensing, Ruben Reeves and Assistant Secretary of Early Learning, Nicole Rose, shared updates on the 2024 Community Child Care Forums, highlight statewide themes, and outline plans for 2025.

Discussion	<p><i>Post-Visit Licensing Survey</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you able to show the tip sheet located in the portal? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That specific tip sheet will be available on January 29th. • Is this only for monitoring visits so it will not include complaint visits? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This survey is used following monitor visits. If a provider has a concern during an initial, initial to full, or a complaint visit, please reach out to the licenser and or the supervisor for assistance. • Once it’s available is there a way to continue sharing feedback on functionality? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The open dialog box at the very end of the survey, might be a good place to put functionality concerns or ideas for future rollout of the survey. They will be reading every one of those and they will also be translating all narrative typed in so that we will be able to learn from all our providers. I think that might be where we want to steer people right now until we figure out if we need to do something different. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It would be good to add instructions that relay that to survey takers. ▪ Is there a character limit on the last one? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a 32,000-character limit. • Can you share info on the question vetting process and who participated? When opportunities to participate in development of something like this, why not come to Provider Supports to ask for participants? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We sent the survey questions to SEIU and Taylor Tots in Yakima for feedback. I do understand there was concern that we did not vet this through Provider Supports or ELAC, but we wanted to get this out. It’s not an excuse but the reality. We are going to run with this survey for a while. We need to stay consistent with our questions so that we can actually gather data. We will take into consideration things that folks are coming up with as they’re doing this survey for implementation in future surveys.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the survey be available for 90 days instead of 60 days? To be truly anonymous, I feel like a longer window should be available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We won't be making any changes at this time. However, if people think 90 days is more appropriate, please continue to make those suggestions for future surveys. • Who receives the responses? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The results go to the licensing board who discusses it with licensing supervisors. Feedback loops will also be provided to ELAC and Provider Supports. • Were the survey questions only shared with the two individuals or did SEIU share it out to family providers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SEIU shared the information internally with colleagues, but we will need to reach out to see if it was shared with additional parties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If it was shared with family providers that leads to a lack of opportunity for center providers. It's an inequitable opportunity that may have been provided. If we're going to receive feedback, we need to make sure the base is broad so that we can continue to work on equitable input and outcomes. ▪ I think that we, as educators, have been trying to voice that we want to be a part of things like this. There many of us that are willing and able to provide input. Moving forward, I do want it to be notated that there should be more involvement in decisions like this because otherwise it is not equitable. There's such a need for this and we've been wanting to have these kinds of surveys. <p>Community Child Care Forums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is Secretary Senn planning to hold any virtual meetings? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are talking with her about the groups she should be meeting with. We both have ELAC and PS on our list of folks that Secretary Senn should be connecting with so more to come on that. • Are there any opportunities coming up where we could influence or provide feedback on an upcoming change? How would we, as providers, make ourselves known as a person that wants to be part of the feedback when things are being developed or changed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Early Learning will be sending out a survey in their newsletter asking for workgroup volunteers. Subscribe to the ECE Newsletter for upcoming workgroup opportunities.
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please reach out to Ruben (ruben.reeves@dcyf.wa.gov), Debbie (debbie.groff@dcyf.wa.gov), and Nicole (nicole.rose@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow up questions.

Staff Qualifications

DCYF's Child Care Area Administrator, Natasha Reed, Workforce Supports Manager, Gretchen Stahr Breunig, Staff Qualification Coordinator, Susie Campbell, provided an update on staff qualifications.

- [Staff Qualifications and Professional Development Feedback Survey](#)

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there any discussion on expanding Provider Access to a Community Equivalent (PACE)? Right now PACE is good for assistant and lead teachers but if someone is going to progress higher than that, PACE becomes irrelevant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The dialogue is continuing on that. It is on the list of things we will be discussing and working on. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ So, it might be something that can be built upon someday.
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- Currently it's part of the articulation agreement with the colleges. It would be a conversation where the colleges would have to come together with that articulation agreement and see how it could move forward past the short certificate.
- Or PACE plus xx number of years of experience as a lead teacher allows someone to fill the programs supervisor/director roles.
 - That hasn't come up before but that's another good another good question to consider. We can put this on the list of things when we are looking at next steps and helping for qualifications, especially when we are wanting to grow within our programs by promoting people who are already in the workforce.
- I think one of the hardest things about the education requirements for program supervisor or director is that it used to be that that person had to have 45 credits of Early Childhood Education (ECE) or 30 credits of ECE plus 150 hours of STARS; that was the entirety of the qualification. Now, not only do no STARS count towards those credits, now the credits are very specific in what they have to take. It includes things like math and English, not just ECE.
 - The State certificate requires the math and English, but the equivalent of 45 ECE credits does not require the math and English. I know this doesn't answer all of the concerns, or account for the credit hours, but the equivalents do. There are ways to work around that math and English and still meet the requirements.
- Is there any conversation on PACE availability? Currently Child Care Action Counsel is giving this training. It is only held in summer and only allows 15 students.
 - We are continuing to have these conversations with our contractors and are aware of the concerns.
- What is the timeline for granting micro-credentials?
 - I'm not 100% sure on the timeline for that but the leadership team will be discussing this within the next few weeks.
- It would be nice if DCYF would offer administrative trainings for STARS hours.
- I was under the impression that MA in another field was equivalent to a BA. A BA equivalent to an AA and so on. Is this still the case?
 - The [Equivalent Options for Education document](#) might help clarify your question about the degrees.
- There is a long waitlist at the North Seattle College, more than a year, for providers who do not have their certifications.
 - Thank you for this question. DCYF will research this question and get information back to you.
- Is this workgroup open for all providers or just for providers in this sub-committee?
 - The workgroup is available for ALL providers
- What options are available in Spanish at the Columbia C.C. to keep studying, and earn the state certificate?
 - Check out the [Early Learning Career Planning Portal](#) for more information about what each college offers:
- Is there a list of resources available from Licensing?
 - [Qualifications & Role Requirements | Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families](#)
- Do you know what the bill number is for the Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) bill. I just learned a TTK bill will be heard next Tuesday but I don't have a bill number.
 - [HB 1450](#)



Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please reach out to Natasha (natasha.reed@dcyf.wa.gov), Gretchen (gretchen.breunig@dcyf.wa.gov), and Susie (susie.campbell@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow up questions.
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Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) Report Development

DCYF's Community Engagement Manager Marlene White led members in a feedback-gathering activity to inform the development of ELAC's 2025 FSKA Report.

- [RCW 43.216.772](#)
- [Fair Start for Kids Act \(FSKA\) Report Development](#) – English
- [Fair Start for Kids Act \(FSKA\) Report Development](#) – Spanish

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please contact dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov with any follow up questions.
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Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025
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