



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2021 – 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Introductions, and Meeting Minutes Review

- DCYF Community Engagement Manager, DeVante’ Daniels welcomed attendees and walked through virtual meeting protocols.
- ELAC co-chair, Lois Martin initiated introductions.
- Members reviewed and approved the [December 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#).

Feedback Loop, State Agency/Partner, and Regional Coalition Updates

DeVante’ Daniels led members in reviewing the feedback loop, the state agency/partner updates, and the regional coalition updates. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Early Learning Director, Karma Hugo provided OSPI updates about integrated early learning. Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) State Lead, Rachael Hall, WCFC State Policy and Advocacy Lead Brittany Hartikainen, and DCYF Help Me Grow Lead Sarah Holdener provided WCFC updates.

- [Feedback Loop Review](#)
- [Dual Licensing Pilot Overview](#)
- [State Agency/Partner Updates](#)
- [Regional Coalition Updates](#)
- [WCFC Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a chance or plan of the school districts beginning to vaccinate teachers and reach out to providers to coordinate for them to be able to go to these different sites? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a meeting today, February 2 about vaccinating teachers with DCYF leadership. • Please advocate for all early learning teachers to be given the same access as K-12. My understanding from watching OSPI Superintendent, Chris Reykdal’s announcement was that the public/private K-12 teachers will ALL be included in the 1B2 phase of vaccinations. We really need our early learning teachers who have been in classrooms all year to be included in that, they are on the front lines. • We have been working to fill the new roles outlined by WCFC. We have made great progress but are intentionally making time to host conversations around equity and make decisions about what equity and the equity role looks like for our group. • Greater Spokane Incorporated has been distributing the hello conversation card sets, along with “math talk” tote bags to families of young children. So far we have distributed 900 sets to partners such as the Zone, Community Minded Enterprises, Spokane Regional Health District, Spokane Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP), Ferry County ECEAP, and Northeast Community Center Head Start to name a few. Our partnership was recently featured in the Spokesman Review and KSPS Public Television developed three spots that they are running on their station. • Are early learning providers included somehow so that they have a direct representative voice? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, we have many early learning providers in this aspect of work and they are woven in all parts. Many regional coalitions have early learning providers involved on a local level. • You can find more information on the Help Me Grow website here.
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Preschool Development Grant

Preschool Development Grant Specialist, Delta Heiberg provided updates regarding the outreach efforts, comments from the federal project team, and next steps.

- [Preschool Development Grant Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the data collection on the surveys, did the survey ask for the race of the respondent? This may impact the responses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We did not. If we were collecting personal information we would have to go through the Institutional Review Board (IRB). We will keep this in mind and can see how that information would impact the responses.
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Department of Health Immunization Update

DCYF Health Systems Analyst, Jennifer Helseth and Department of Health (DOH) Nursing Consultation Advisor, Kathy Bay provided an update on immunization rules and the COVID-19 vaccine.

- [Immunization Update to Licensing](#)
- [DOH Immunization Update Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the forms from medical provider's offices or systems (MyChart or MyIR) need to be signed by adult family members? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new Conditional Immunization Status (CIS) does not have a parent signature line on it, it will be sent directly from the medical provider to the child care center. The medical verification comes from the doctor, not the parent. • Is there a way to provide access to all child care providers to the Washington online immunization system so that they can access and print out immunizations for their students if parents are having trouble or are somehow unable to do so themselves? Some child care providers have a nursing consultant because they have infants, but those are hard to come by, others who do not serve infants or toddlers may not and therefore do not have access. How can we support providers so that they can better support the families they serve? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It has to be a registered nurse (RN) according to the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). We are exploring options to help providers get access. I would like every provider to have a health/nursing consultant. • This has been a huge unnecessary burden for childcare providers to take on. Immunization records should strictly be handled and tracked by medical personnel. K-12 has full time employees (actual nurses) handling this documentation and childcare providers do not have the means to employ someone specifically to complete these tasks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, we agree it is a burden but it is also a health and safety requirement for Washington state. • The issue is that if you do not have a medical personnel available you do not have access. We need help. Is there a way your department can provide that service? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unfortunately, we have tried to see if there was a way through DCYF in giving access but that is not something we can do at this time. Hopefully over time we will be able to help in that way but as of right now an RN will need to oversee the immunization records. Once the law changes then we may be able to help with this, it is a work in progress. • If we are doing this to "help" K-12, then why is there not funding from K-12 being diverted to us to do this work? • Do the nurses charge? If so, that is another barrier. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The nurses do charge. • However, that is a cost barrier to many providers and this is an equity issue.
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- If it goes over those 30 days and we are unable to get immunization records, what will happen particularly for Head Start?
 - That would be the Health Coordinator's job to make sure the family has what they need or have the immunization process started. For example, a child has gotten one shot and is scheduled to get the next one.
- Head Start performance standards allows programs to enroll and serve children even if required documentation is difficult to obtain at time of enrollment. Will the new state immunization law allow the same flexibility for Head Start programs?
 - Right now it is easy to virtually do that, when we go back to the center, if it goes over that 30 days and we aren't able to obtain immunization there is going to be flexibility for Head Start programs. All those shots can't be given in 30 days, it's our job to make sure they are on the path.
- How can we support your efforts to have nurses available for all providers? Has DCYF or DOH costed this out?
 - We have been able to expand services that nurses are able to offer. King County has done some work through their Best Starts for Kids (BSK) Grant. It is tough, this past year and moving forward because we don't have the dollars. Yes, DOH and DCYF have worked on this and put out a legislative report in the past, you can find that on the DCYF website [here](#).
- If providers banded together in a certain area, would the state consider offering a vaccine site just for early childhood educators? Maybe having Child Care Aware of Washington (CCAWA) host?
 - We are talking with OSPI and CCAWA today, February 2 about how we might be able to serve the childcare population specifically, perhaps in alignment with the K-12 population.
- What percentage of phases 1A and 1B1 populations need to be vaccinated before you start 1B2 phase?
 - About 50%
 - It's 65 and over. We are working on how we can address our 1B2 population and please be patient because there just aren't enough vaccinations coming out fast enough at the moment.
- Do they consider those who choose not to vaccinate somehow?
 - We are aiming to have 50% of the population in the phase vaccinated to move on to the next phase, regardless of what percentage chooses not to vaccinate.
- K-12 teachers are being taken together as part of the OSPI/Kaiser arrangement. Is that not possible for early learning?
 - OSPI and CCAWA are meeting together to talk over what we all can do to address this for early learning. We will look at how we can make it easier for the child care population to get vaccinated that is closely aligned with the K-12 population.
- Should we be wearing two masks or KN95?
 - You can read more about the Labor and Industries (L&I) guidance for mask wearing [here](#). There are some child care centers that have chosen to wear the KN95 and face shield to have higher protection. Also, please tell your staff to wear what they are most comfortable with. The DOH and DCYF guidance has not been updated in a while. You can read the most up to date version of the Child Care Guidance from DOH [here](#).

Policy Development and Review

DCYF Deputy Director of Government Affairs, Allison Krutsinger provided updates on the 2021 legislative session.

- [2021 Legislative Session DCYF Bill Tracking Details](#)



<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would you please share how the new Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) money will be spent? Can you explain the dollars that are set aside to incentivize providers to take Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) families and what the plan is for its use? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DCYF will not make decisions on how to spend that money, it will be the legislature that tells us how to spend it. We anticipate we will have more information on that in the next couple weeks. • Any information on the healthcare update? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We do not have any updates on that right now, but there is a bill that expands health care subsidies and health care options that are offered through the Benefits Exchange however it is not specific to child care but could definitely help child care providers and workers. • Is the Department giving guidance on how the bill could be updated to meet the block grant requirements? The extent of professional development outlined in the WAC's far exceed the minimum requirements to continue receiving block grant dollars. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We provided some of that feedback to the chair when we testified. • What about bills to put Early Achievers on hold? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It has not been scheduled for a hearing yet so we do not have much information on that at this time. We can loop back on that once more information comes out. • Do you think there might be an amendment to the Early Achievers (EA) bill because that effects EA coaches and future funding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We do not know and have not been asked to engage about the bill. It has yet to be scheduled for a hearing. We would be open to have that conversation with the sponsor and chair about those details. • Any feedback on the childcare facilities funding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We do not have any concerns with the bill as it is written. There has been a lot of time dedicated specifically to this. We are hopeful to see continual investments to the capital budget. • Is it only people from OSPI and DCYF who are collaborating on transitional Kindergarten (TK)? What about the requirement to partner with the community and providers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are more folks involved and conversations are very new, it is early and COVID has slowed things down. • Along with unintended impacts on ECEAP, has DCYF considered how TK might affect licensed childcare? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TK is very critical and that is very important to DCYF and these questions and concerns are top of mind. • Concerns from some parents about TK being in those large institutional settings - my concerns are around Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) children being pushed into these environments early that have already failed them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you for bringing this up. We are all very interested in being a part of the conversation.
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Closing Remarks/Adjourn

<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next virtual advisory group meeting will be on March 30, 2021.
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