



## Early Learning Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2024 – 10:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

### Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

ELAC Executive Committee member Enrica Hampton welcomed attendees and walked through virtual meeting protocols. Introductions were completed via chat.

### Review of Meeting Materials

ELAC Executive Committee member Lois Martin led the group in the review of meeting materials.

- [December 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Feedback Loop](#)
- [State Agency/Partner Updates](#)
- [Regional Coalition Updates](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<p><b>Feedback Loop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding Living Wage, DCYF partnering with SEIU 925 and Child Care Aware of Washington, I'd like to see a center voice, like Washington Childcare Centers Association (WCCA) included. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regarding the living wage proviso work with Childcare Aware WA, WCFC is partnering in this work and will be engaging with childcare providers and families. The Childcare Voice Network hosts monthly meetings on Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you'd like more information, please email Colleen (Colleen@lilaccityelc.com) or Brittany (Brittany@bh-consulting.org).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Agency Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCYF Office of Tribal Relations would like to share a current grant opportunity: Tribal Early Learning Fund (TELF). Open now. Please find more information on the <a href="#">Tribal Relations website</a>.</li> </ul>
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### Legislative Update

DCYF Senior Policy Advisor Melissa Cheesman provided a legislative update.

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the transition to kindergarten ask - is the money for the steering committee to look into incorporating those requirements or is it being used to fund the groundwork? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is used to fund the groundwork and collaboration for the network to be able to effectively channel families into program choices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ So, this is to staff the steering committee, correct? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is for the work of the steering community collaborating and coordinating recruitment and enrollments. The funding is also added for existing contracts with key partners. Again, to enable that coordination.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Who is going to be spearheading this work? Will CE be forming and coordinating? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There has been a Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment (CRE) group working on implementing this system. The original group included many providers, around 100 people, but that has been reduced to around 15 due to lack of funding. I think this funding is aimed at trying to make CRE into a reality and put together plans to try and make it functional.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those considerations would be a part of the TK Rulemaking considerations also done in partnership with DCYF and OSPI.</li> <li>• Does <a href="#">SSB 6038</a> have legs to pass?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The only update we have is that it is still moving.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What kinds of tax exemptions are in SSB 6038?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is the business and occupation (B&amp;O) tax.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Can you also share if DCYF signed in pro or con for each of these bills?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DCYF did not provide any testimony pro or con but did provide edits to include childcare providers serving children that are defined as eligible, which would include this under 13 category as well as 19 with verified special needs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please reach out to Melissa Cheesman (<a href="mailto:melissa.cheesman@dcyf.wa.gov">melissa.cheesman@dcyf.wa.gov</a>) with any follow-up questions.</li> </ul>

**Cost of Quality Care Rate Model Recommendations and Study**

DCYF’s Federal Initiatives and Collaboration Administrator Matt provided an update on Cost of Quality Care Rate Model Recommendations and Study and gathered feedback on outreach for the Study's final weeks.

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following is taken from the King Co./Seattle cost of care report - The true cost of childcare when caregivers receive a living wage and benefits is around \$40,000 a year for an infant, \$30,000 for a toddler, \$25,000 for a preschooler, and \$13,000 for a school-age child.</li> <li>• Also acknowledging that there is a mix of private and State paid children in programs that make certain things possible.</li> <li>• Are you saying base rates are based on Cost of Living in different regions in WA state?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, the basis that the design team looked at was a couple of different options for cost of living.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Snohomish County has a closer cost of living to King and Pierce than other NW counties.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Living Wage Calculation for Washington</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is there a feature on these surveys for once you have answered it, you will drop off the list or if you go back in it will show that you have completed it?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I know when you’ve completed the survey your name goes off the list for contacts, but I don’t know what the survey says if you go back into it after completion. We will follow up on this.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please reach out to Matt Judge (<a href="mailto:matt.judge@dcyf.wa.gov">matt.judge@dcyf.wa.gov</a>) with any follow up questions.</li> </ul>

**DCYF Temporary Licensing Subcommittee (TLS) Recommendation Response**

DCYF’s Senior Childcare Administrator Travis Hansen, Director of Early Care and Education Hunter Xtaba and Assistant Secretary of Licensing Ruben Reeves presented DCYF’s formal response to the recommendations from the Temporary Licensing Subcommittee of ELAC.

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a provider requests copies because they don’t have the capacity to print, will the department (maybe their licensor?) send it to them?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We can do that upon request.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• I think there remains concerns that providers have no way to know when updates are made to the guidebook or direct providers to the changes. Can there be a guidebook updates supplement or similar document?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We can look into how to do a better job and to show when updates are made in the guidebook.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This might exist already, but is there a good, simple resource that shows how all the state subsidies line up and the overlap with different income levels?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We can line up something that shows how ECEAP and Working Connections line up. We also see a lot of counties, cities, and local municipalities putting out subsidy opportunities. Are there other subsidies that you're thinking of?                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If it's by city or region, I'm imagining a line that shows zero income to however much and little sections that are above it that line up what these different options are. They do come and go, and they sometimes change and so just having a quick resource to see what families can apply for would be helpful for families.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will follow up on this.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• It would be great to include the Military Child Care Fee Assistance program in that comparison that Jerrod is referring to. The program pays a fee assistance directly to the participating childcare provider based on the military family's household income.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We will do that and reach out to you with any questions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please reach out to Travis Hansen (<a href="mailto:travis.hansen@dcyf.wa.gov">travis.hansen@dcyf.wa.gov</a>), Hunter Xtaba (<a href="mailto:hunter.xtaba@dcyf.wa.gov">hunter.xtaba@dcyf.wa.gov</a>) and Ruben Reeves (<a href="mailto:ruben.reeves@dcyf.wa.gov">ruben.reeves@dcyf.wa.gov</a>) with any follow up questions.</li> </ul>

**DCYF Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ)**

DCYF's Deputy Secretary of Operations Frank Ordway and Interim Director of Racial Equity and Social Justice Alice Coil provided an update on the work and structure of ORESJ.

<p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the ORESJ lunch and learn webinars internal events only?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The events are for DCYF staff only at this time. We'll work on community events hopefully soon!</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Executive Committee and CE Team want to acknowledge that the ORESJ update is typically scheduled at the top of the agenda but needed to be moved to the end due to scheduling conflicts for this meeting. Due to the meeting running behind schedule, this topic was cut short. We will adjust for this in the April meeting to ensure proper time is held for this conversation.</li> <li>• Please reach out to <a href="mailto:dcyf.racialequityandsocialjustice@dcyf.wa.gov">dcyf.racialequityandsocialjustice@dcyf.wa.gov</a> with any follow up questions.</li> </ul>

**Closing Remarks/Adjourn**

<p><b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next ELAC Report Development Session will be on March 5, 2024</li> <li>• The next ELAC Public Meeting will be on April 9, 2023</li> </ul>
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**Members in Attendance:**

Alexandra Martin-Truesdell, Ami Magisos, Astrid Newell, Brittany Hartikainen, Cheryl Smith, Claudette Lindquist, Colleen Condon, Debbie Carlsen, Debbie Ham, Deeann Puffert, Dr. Nucha Isarowong, Enrica Hampton, Gary Burris, Heidi Scott, Jen Sandvig, Kathy Carman, Lois Martin, Lola Moses, Michelle Perez, Nancy Spurgeon, Olivia Burley, Ryan Guzman, Samantha Bowen, Samantha Masters, Shereese Rhodes, Valerie Arnold, Waylon Ballew

**Members Absent:**

Aida Rodriguez, Carlina Brown-Banks, Catherine Duffy, Danielle Rasmussen, Deborah Sioux Lee, Grace Yoo, Isis Lara Fernandez, Julie Rolling, Kathy Goebel, Kimberly Hoover, Luz Gomez, Mary Rulewicz, Milan Mulye, Representative Mari Leavitt, Senator Claire Wilson, Susan Yang, Valisa Smith