Washington State Department of CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Provider Supports Subcommittee of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021 – 9:00am – 12:30pm
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Introductions and Material Review
- DCYF Deputy Director of Community Engagement, Deanna Stewart welcomed attendees and initiated introductions.
- Members reviewed and voted to approve the December 9, 2020 meeting minutes.
- Members reviewed and discussed the Feedback Loop document.
  - Feedback Loop
  - Dual Licensing Pilot Overview

DCYF Oversight Board
DCYF Oversight Board Executive Director, Crista Johnson provided an overview of the work of the Oversight Board.
- DCYF Oversight Board Presentation

Discussion	- Providers had an opportunity to go through the Internal Review Process with DCYF staff and that was a really reflective, collaborative process. I hope that this will be fruitful for everyone. - I'm hoping that some of the individuals in this group apply, so we can benefit from the expertise in 2021. - We are getting the application translated. We want to have a robust list of potential panelists for an objective perspective. - We are working through a new structure in 2021 to include subcommittee meetings which may help engage stakeholders who are less likely to speak up in front of DCYF leadership. We still need to abide by the Open Public Meetings Act.

Policy Development and Review
Deputy Director of Government Affairs, Allison Krutsinger and Government Affairs Advisor, Genevieve Stokes provided updates on the 2021 legislative session.
- 2021 Legislative Session Bill Tracking Details

Discussion	- HB 1213 should be heard on the Senate floor today, that includes $50 million for child care. - Which bills did the department sign onto "yes" and "no" and why? - In previous years we have taken a more active role in session. This year is a little different; we have remained pretty quiet. We cannot support legislation if it is not included in the governor's budget. - What is your handicapping on the omnibus bill with Senator Wilson? - Do I think it is going to pass? I think the Fair Start Act will likely have a good chance of moving forward in some fashion. I think like many things in the legislative arena it will come down to dollars. I do anticipate seeing it come out of the fiscal committee, but there is a long road ahead of us on that. - What is the position of DCYF for Senate Bill 5136? - We have no policy concerns, but because the cost associated with this bill is not included in the budget we cannot officially support it.

	• The MMR bill came up as a surprise for providers. We didn't know it was going to be a requirement. Is there anything else out there that will impact providers that we may not know about? How do you even find out about those so it does not come as a surprise? ○ When we know what is out there we do share it. I understand the concern; it is difficult to follow all the bills that interact with childcare. ○ SB 5115 may fit into that category. It was heard on January 18 and has not been scheduled for executive session. ○ It is getting pushback from the business community in general.

Community Based Training

DCYF Professional Development Administrator, Angela Abrams provided information and requested feedback on the development and implementation of DCYF's community based training option to meet education requirements for licensing.

• Community Based Training Pilot Feedback

Discussion	• Does basics meet the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) requirement? And the certificate requirement (stackable certificates) is something Washington is requiring to build upon that work?
	 ○ In the initial certificate there are three classes: health, safety and nutrition (meets basics requirement and federal requirement), environments and interaction, and practicum/observation experience.
	• If you have already taken basics, can you get the health piece and then move forward?
	 ○ Yes, the idea is to be flexible.
	• Can you provide the link to Enhancing Quality of Early Learning (EQEL) training?
	 ○ You can watch this video for an update about EQEL.
	• Are these at all transferrable should a teacher want to get college credits?
	 ○ For Section 3 of HB 2556, we will be working with the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to see how this can be a credit bearing option. At this time, we are creating this pathway as an equivalent for the licensing education requirement.
	• Is there going to be intentionality around the diversity of the English Speaking providers? I would like to see 40 Spanish speaking and 20 slots for Black providers.
	 ○ We need to be intentional about diversifying this pool, and I think there should be a set of seats set aside for Black providers.
	 ○ Would you see a Black community cohort?
	  ▪ I would think that you would do it the way you are recruiting the Spanish or Somali speaking cohort. "We are looking for a cohort of 20 Black providers to participate in the group of 40 English speaking providers". I don't want us to be missing the representation to see if this will really be impactful across all communities.
	 ○ I would be inclined to also include seats for Native Americans, with that in mind. Learning and traditions are very important and we do not have this perspective.
	  ▪ I agree that there needs to be intentional recruitment within the different communities. Working with the tribes and different agencies, like the Carl Maxey center in Spokane, it is necessary to bring more diverse participants.
	  ▪ I would add that whoever the trainer is going to be, must be skilled at allowing all voices to be heard and not present the information in the dominant culture only.
	  ▪ Standards for BIPOC inclusion is minimum of 30%

- We are doing our best to get things ready and it may take some time to translate. We have heard feedback that providers prefer more face-to-face interaction so the trainer and participants can give feedback on what is necessary/helpful to translate. I think when we do the Somali group it is worth noting that it might look a little different. Do you have any perspectives on this?
    - I would encourage not to skimp on face-to-face opportunities. Some cultures prefer different models of interaction. For example, this is a presentation where you are giving us the information. In some communities more breakout space and interaction is preferred.
- Looking over the eligibility for the pilot, it appears the criteria allows for people that have taken some college. At our most recent meeting that wasn't the case. Could you confirm?
    - You don't need to have any college to participate, but people who have taken college classes can participate.
- How do we make sure we are getting people who are going to follow through and share their experience at the end? Do we want people to come from one center or open to many?
    - It would be easier to get buy in if the director is participating. It would certainly make the pilot easier, I believe.
    - Training mentors could be a way to increase breadth of access without burdening directors who have a lot going on, yet directors should be supervisory.
- What do you suggest is more welcoming to participants? Is the word "apply" too scary for some?
    - Participate instead of apply
    - Apply also means you can be rejected
    - Participate or join in
    - Training opportunity
    - What about sending an "invitation to participate" and communicate that there is limited space but may be more opportunities to engage later
- Our ability to scale this out statewide is dependent on the resources that we have available to make that happen. Right now we do not have the resources. We are trying to not give false promises, because we aren't certain we can secure the resources for this, but we don't want to scare participants away by saying we aren't sure where this is going.
- Did DCYF make a budgetary ask to support this project and if so how much? Why such a small rollout?
    - We do have fiscal notes for this session. It has not been the same breakdown as in past years. The rollout is small right now because we are using funding from HB 2556, which requires the development. This pilot is being done as part of the development process so we can capture user feedback and build it in to the development of the program.
- The problem with rolling it out that way is equitable access. All providers don't have internet at home so those with more privilege will be at the top of the applicant list
    - We did not originally intend to do this virtually, but the pandemic has led us to need to rely on technology/internet access to complete this pilot. We are still trying to work through this because technology is not responsive to everyone's needs, but we don't see an alternative at this point.
- Are there people in this group with staff that might already know will be of interest to them? If you know of anyone, reach out so we can follow up.
    - I have staff that I know would like to sign up for a community based pathway.
    - Some years I would, but I don't this year.
- There will need to be a word of mouth campaign too - to spread the word and how to sign up

	○ I think that is a good point. - Will the Child Care Aware offices be able to help? ○ Yes, are you talking about technology specifically? ▪ Yes, and just with helping with the application. People would show up to my office at the community college with this type of thing asking for help. It would be good to be able to point interested individuals in the right direction to get help. ○ We are working with Child Care Aware, Imagine Institute, and Voices of Tomorrow. - It will be good to have the community training options available for educators - this has amazing potential. - I know there is a good amount of time for a staff person to get their education after hire/promotion. Is there any move to put that timeline on hold until the community based training option becomes available? ○ And investigating the possibility of transferring after engaging in these community based options should someone want that would be a great option to support growth and possibility for care. ▪ We have had some conversation around this. There is an update coming to the Managed Education and Registry Information Tool (MERIT) to allow people to choose their option very clearly and to see what the options are available to them. - You can view a recorded webinar about the MERIT enhancements here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykgfXp0uJVg&feature=youtu.be

Early Achievers Revisions Update

DCYF Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Administrator, Rachael Brown-Kendall provided an update on the Early Achievers revisions and requested feedback from members.

- Draft Early Achievers Program Profile Report

Discussion	- Solutions are still needed around technology access – please continue to send us your suggestions on this. - This is a positive recruitment tool for Early Achievers. - Where does this fit among the work we already do for a rating? Replacing something? In addition to? ○ The questions were in Early Achievers before, there will no longer be an interview during records review.

Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Next Steps/Follow Up	• The next virtual meeting will be on April 14, 2021.

Approved by Provider Supports_____