



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2024 – 9 a.m. to Noon

Report Development Session | Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

DCYF Community Engagement Administrator Erin Kerrigan welcomed attendees, walked through virtual meeting protocols, and initiated introductions.

FSKA Recommendation Report

DCYF Community Engagement Administrator Erin Kerrigan led the group through a discussion regarding the ELAC Recommendation Report.

- [2023 FSKA Recommendation Report](#)
- [Fair Start for Kids Act \(FSKA\) Sec. 102 Spending Goals and Strategies](#)
- [Meeting Discussion Responses](#)

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the next report it might be more effective to choose our top five deliverables for DCYF to accomplish and place them at the top of the report. It might be more effective to highlight the main issues and would make it more accessible for multiple audiences. • I appreciate being involved at the beginning of the process and also having quotes in the report on why issues need to be addressed. • What’s really needed is a process of both understanding the landscape and then making solid recommendations that reflect the perspectives of our diverse communities. The report itself should be the product but it is not the purpose. • Is there a way we can think more about the process of developing recommendations and less about the report format? I have heard from partners that some of the spending goals and strategies in FSKA were missed in the last report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That’s great feedback and we do not need to go down the same path as last year. If something was missed last year, we can absolutely include it this year. • We would like to know how the 2023 report has been used, its usefulness and effectiveness, and how it is connected to other work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are so many other connections to other work as well, such as the Early Learning Coordination Plan. ○ Is there a report that shows progress in these areas? Do we already have the money to do this work? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We can definitely follow up with an itemized update. • How was the report used? Who got it and is it posted somewhere? Has it created any action? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We can connect with the Government Affairs team and provide a follow-up. • Is it possible for the report to be listed on the DCYF report page? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is a joint report through DCYF and ELAC and should most likely be included but we will follow up on that. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We would like to advocate for a wider distribution of this and have it more widely accessible. • Engagement with childcare providers shows there is a need for translation services when working with the community and not just when they work with DCYF. Language access services need to be offered more broadly.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is also true for parents. A lot of families are not accessing care because there are language barriers when understanding what’s available, even if it’s just Working Connections. ● I really support the recommendations about mental health. For tribal programs, it’s difficult to reach out off the reservation. I’m not sure how effective that process is for tribal programs. I don’t think that tribes are going to easily reach out for those services, but they need the services. ● It would be important to prioritize funding for early care providers who have children with special needs with them full-time five days a week. Funding is needed to support them being able to engage onsite in their own center with itinerant practitioners coming in to provide early support services in that natural care setting for working parents enrolled in Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) programs. There are additional supports needed in order for that to work well in those environments and for the childcare partners to maintain their ratio requirements. ● We should consider aligning the categories of the recommendations to the Early Learning Coordination Plan’s five outcome areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It would potentially be a good exercise for this group to have those outcome areas and pick how those match the categories. In doing so we may recognize we want to change some of the categories or maybe we're able to align those things. ○ We want to make sure we're mobilizing the tools that have already been created, and the Early Learning Coordination Plan has a great structure and intentionality with it already. I think it could really help support our work and make our report so much stronger by showing there is alignment already there.
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Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Community Engagement team will work internally to provide ELAC with written legislative updates from the 2023 recommendations. ● The next ELAC Public Meeting will be on April 9, 2024. ● The next ELAC Report Development Session will be on May 14, 2024
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Members in Attendance:

Astrid Newell, Cheryl Smith, Claudette Lindquist, Colleen Condon, Debbie Ham, Deeann Puffert, Isis Lara Fernandez, Jen Sandvig, Kathy Carman, Lola Moses, Mary Rulewicz, Michelle Perez, Olivia Burley, Ryan Guzman, Samantha Masters, Shereese Rhodes, Valerie Arnold, Waylon Ballew

Members Absent:

Aida Rodriguez, Alexandra Martin-Truesdell, Ami Magisos, Brittany Hartikainen, Carlina Brown-Banks, Catherine Duffy, Danielle Rasmussen, Debbie Carlsen, Deborah Sioux Lee, Dr. Nucha Isarowong, Enrica Hampton, Gary Burris, Grace Yoo, Heidi Scott, Julie Rolling, Kathy Goebel, Kimberly Hoover, Lois Martin, Luz Gomez, Milan Mulye, Nancy Spurgeon, Representative Mari Leavitt, Samantha Bowen, Senator Claire Wilson, Susan Yang, Valisa Smith