



## Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

### Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2020 – 10:00am-3:30pm

Virtual Meeting

#### Welcome & Introductions

DCYF’s Deputy Director of Community Engagement Deanna Stewart and Community Engagement Manager Erin Kerrigan welcomed attendees, initiated introductions, and facilitated a Provider Share-Out focusing on the impact of COVID-19.

#### State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates & Feedback Loop

Members reviewed and discussed the State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates and received an overview of the new Immunization Rules from the Department of Health (DOH).

- [State Agency Partner Updates](#)
- [Regional Coalition Updates](#)
- [Creative Start Handout](#)
- [Immunization Letter](#)
- [Materials Reference](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<p><b>Immunization Rules Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don’t know how many providers are even aware of this. Public health needs to distribute this information widely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We work with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and DCYF. We don’t necessarily have direct contact with providers, so it can be difficult for us to find those avenues. We can expand on interdepartmental partnerships.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What type of racial equity framework was used to avoid unintentional negative consequences on people of color and individuals in rural areas? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ That was a state Board of Health decision</li> </ul> </li> <li>• With being two months away from this requirement and a number of health care providers still only offering telehealth, access may be more of an issue than cost.</li> <li>• What is your expectation as a department if the family does not meet that requirement? Are we supposed to dis-enroll kids? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is very important that kids are vaccinated, I think if they are newly enrolling it is easier to make sure they have the paperwork before they start school/childcare. Each student or child would be on a case by case basis. Or they could just go under conditional status and work to get caught up.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Can parents print records from a portal like MyChart (Providence) and turn in with a Certificate of Immunization Status form? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community Engagement team will work with DOH to provide additional opportunities for updates and feedback regarding communication and implementation of the Immunization Rules.</li> </ul>

#### Policy Development and Review

DCYF’s Deputy Director of Government Affairs Allison Krutsinger provided DCYF updates, including COVID-19 responses, legislative session, Strategic Plan, etc.

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group sizes are a huge issue for providers, how does the department plan to assist providers in navigating this recommendation?</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ That is a public health recommendation by DOH. We are supporting providers by trying to be creative about working within the group sizes on the ground. We continue internally and externally to discuss the fiscal impact this has on providers; we know this is hurting you.</li> <li>● Would you please share the purpose of providers providing open slot information to DCYF and what, if any, ramifications to sites who choose not to report?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DCYF is getting a lot of questions about vacancies and availability around childcare. We are also trying to look to the future to where childcare is available and what will need to be done to support communities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Related to group sizes - some children receive early intervention services in child care settings. Is DCYF in communication with early intervention agencies on the topic of group size?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is some connection there, it is not perfect, but they should be aware of the group sizes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Where can we as parents see these updates?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Budget webinars are open to everybody. Our COVID page on the DCYF website also calls out updates and important information.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● What is going on with home visiting?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They pivoted to remote services early on in the pandemic, but as some counties move into phase 2, we need to think about how that will look moving forward.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Are there centers open to anyone other than essential staff?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes. DCYF did not limit who was allowed to access childcare. We want children to be kept home if that can be done safely.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● It seems that there is some perception that homes would be safer for providers than coming to another location, but I worry that that is only for some of the homes we would visit. In confined quarters germs can spread easily.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I will check in with my team to see where we are with guidance around that.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● If schools do not open in the fall, will DCYF coordinate with OSPI on supporting child care centers gear up?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ OSPI has formed a large task force and we are partnering with them regardless of what happens in the fall.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Is there a timeline for what the fall will look like? It's hard to plan.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We have not heard a concrete timeline, but all of this will have to be addressed at the district level.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● What is the status of the other half of the CARES monies?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At this point there has not been a decision made to release additional funds from the CARES money.</li> <li>○ This would be a good use of the remaining CARES funds, to help school-age and center providers prepare for what may be this new normal for fall.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**Strategic Plan**

DCYF's Director of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability (OIAA) Vickie Ybarra provided updates and requested feedback on DCYF's draft Strategic Plan.

- [Strategic Priorities](#)
- [DRAFT Strategic Plan](#)
- [Strategic Plan Alignment One-Pager](#)
- [Strategic Plan Presentation](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In my area there is concern about the integrated approach. Many states who have gone down this path have been shown to have poor quality services.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At the state level there are many more kids who need access to services. I certainly understand the concerns at the local level, and am interested in</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>suggestions from you all on how to address those concerns on a local level or state level if you think we can do more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will there be work done to identify the impacts Transitional K will have on the current private childcare business model?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nicole Rose is doing some work on cost with the Department of Commerce, I'm not sure it included transitional K, but we can certainly make that suggestion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In terms of quality, reducing group size is better for kids. It is also more expensive. I think that conversation needs to happen. Our teachers were happy to be able to work with a smaller group of kids. A renewed system after this could be better. Maybe we don't need to rebuild it the same way.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are some things we are learning during this difficult time, that might serve us as an early learning system in the future.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Should it now say "maintain" versus "improve" or "maintain and improve" availability of provider services.</li> <li>• The system was already struggling and COVID has shown where the gaps are, we need to change into a new model for the benefit of children as much as the communities economic impact.</li> <li>• In bullet 5, I would replace availability of with access to - Due to many sometimes hidden barriers many families cannot access services even though they may be available</li> </ul>
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**Racial Equity Plan**

DCYF's Racial Equity and Social Justice Team Dae Shogren, Evette Jasper and LaToya Holmes-Ware, provided updates and received feedback on the Racial Equity Plan

- [Racial Equity & Social Justice Framework](#)
- [Racial Equity Presentation](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did I hear you say that there are disproportionality leads in each Region? If so, can a contact list be shared?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We will send that out in a follow-up email.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How does this work connect with the Racial Equity Theory of Change that DCYF uses?</li> <li>• Any data to add intersectionality with LGBTQ+ youth?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Right now Dae Shogren is the only dedicated staff member to LGBTQ+, but we are partnering with other organizations like the Center for Child Youth Justice.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• With the public health emergency, has placement with family members remained steady?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The number of intakes has dramatically decreased.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**Regional Coalition Deep Dive**

DCYF's Help Me Grow Lead Sarah Holdener, Yakima Valley Community Foundation Senior Program Officer Lindsay Boswell, Help Me Washington State Director Sharon Beaudoin and Support for Early Learning & Families Executive Director Debbie Ham provided an overview of the Help Me Grow program and how regions are aligning with the state framework.

- [Regional Coalition Presentation](#)
- [Diaper Bank Handout](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah and Sharon provided an overview of the Help Me Grow Statewide framework which is based on a national model comprised of four main components:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coordinated access point</li> <li>○ Family &amp; community outreach</li> <li>○ Child healthcare provider outreach</li> <li>○ Data collection and analysis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lindsay and Debbie provided an overview of how the regions lead local efforts to integrate into the statewide system.</li> <li>• The presenters provided an outline of how the framework was implemented in the network response to COVID-19.</li> </ul>
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**Preschool Development Grant**

DCYF’s Preschool Development Grant Administrator Tracie, Kenney provided updates on the Statewide Needs Assessment and Statewide Early Learning Plan funded by the Preschool Development Grant.

- [Preschool Development Grant Presentation](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with organizations that are providing supports, resources and services to communities of color and immigrant/refugee communities to 'piggy back' on work/communication in native languages (interpretation and/or translation services - hopefully both) that already may be occurring.</li> <li>• It makes me think of how help me grow is being set up to show connections. Is this PDG organization just based for agencies to access the information or will this be shared with the public and parents             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If it's the Early Learning Strategic Plan, it will be a tool created by partners (facilitated by DCYF) for use statewide by everyone. Same with our Needs Assessment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use trusted partners to initiate engagement within communities of color and PAYING those partners an equitable rate to connect DCYF to the intermediators.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Preschool Development Grant team will return to present at the August meeting to continue the conversation and collect feedback.</li> </ul>

**Market Rate Survey**

Child Care Administrator, Matt Judge, provided updates and requested feedback on changes being made to the Market Rate Survey to adjust for COVID-19.

- [Market Rate Survey Presentation](#)
- [Market Rate Survey](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You spoke about the potential benefits of shortening the survey - what are some potential problems?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Providers are interested in seeing all of the services/costs, but the more questions we have the less likely providers will fill it out. We will get more and better data from a shorter survey.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Has there ever been consideration of Child Care Aware (CCA) doing the market rate survey? I know in other states the system has been contracted to do this work to meet the requirement.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DCYF has always contracted out to do the work. I was looking to contract with another state agency because it seemed to be more efficient.</li> <li>○ If CCA did the survey response rates may be higher.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Has there been discussion about asking providers what the actual cost of quality care is, not just what the market will tolerate. Many programs are struggling to afford to continue care.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are cost of quality surveys, but I am focusing on what providers are charging.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Did you learn anything from the unusable data about special needs care that would guide questions - it is a complicated system. What is it that we want to know?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The detail level around social needs, providers felt other providers would want to know the services people were providing for special needs and what they were charging. We couldn't rely on the data</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How are you ensuring you get a sufficient rate of response in all regions to ensure the rate is set to market?</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Making sure the survey is short and simple.</li><li>● Will it be in other languages? I believe last time it was in more than one language?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ English, Somali, Spanish</li></ul></li><li>● I may be jumping ahead. With the large number of providers who have closed - are we going to make sure that they are included - esp. if their closure is due to COVID-19?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ I'm not sure how long a provider needs to be shut down before we consider them a closure, so that is definitely something we are going to have to pay attention to this fall. I will talk with my data folks to see what I need to do there.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Matt Judge will return to ELAC for the August meeting to provide updates and collect feedback on outreach efforts.</li></ul>

**Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

<b>Discussion</b>	The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Provider Supports Subcommittee on August 11, 2020.
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