



Early Learning Advisory Council Special Meeting: Report Development Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2023 – 9 a.m. to Noon
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

DCYF Community Engagement Managers Emily Morgan and Eric LaFontaine welcomed attendees, walked through virtual meeting protocols, and initiated introductions.

Report Development

DCYF Community Engagement Managers Eric LaFontaine and Emily Morgan led the group through a discussion regarding the FSKA Spending Goals and Strategies Survey and the draft ELAC Recommendation Report.

<p>Discussion</p>	<p><u>FSKA Spending Goals and Strategies Survey</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need more engagement. If 27 is great compared to previous surveys, then what do we need to do to get more engagement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This was sent out to our Parent Advisory Group, Outdoor Nature-Based Advisory Group, Provider Supports, ELAC, DCYF’s Facebook page, the Community Engagement Gov delivery system, the Arc of Washington, One America, Head Start/ Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), Voices of Tomorrow, the Imagine Institute, SEIU 925, Child Care Aware, State Interagency Coordinating Council, Open Doors for Multicultural Families, and Washington Communities for Children (WCFC), and the Somali Parent Education Board. We will gladly reach out to additional groups and welcome any additional feedback. We encourage you to send out this survey broadly to your own networks as well. • There are good recommendations in this feedback. To echo a feeling from these comments, I get the sense that providers on the ground are anxious for implementation and perhaps don’t understand the process. • There might be a benefit in creating a one-pager that could be sent out broadly to describe all of these processes and the various reports to provide clarity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That’s a great idea. We can work on that. • This work is informing what we recommend around expanding provider supports correct? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, that’s right; expanding provider supports is the broad category. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ My understanding is there is an actual FSKA report that DCYF is drafting that is specific to all spending goals and strategies that will show was the result was. I do anticipate that the report that will show the progress of many of those pieces. We do believe that the information will be given out for public consumption. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That progress report would be super helpful for us to make recommendations. <p><u>Draft ELAC FSKA Recommendation Report</u> <u>Expand Provider Supports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you looking for language that would be the nuts and bolts of how to accomplish this? Are we just looking to further define the goal and add some more specifics there?
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- These are recommendations that you are making to DCYF so the more specific and clear you can be the better.
 - I'm hesitating on the language special needs. Are we specifically talking about children with suspected and identified disabilities? I think there is a lot of internal work that DCYF has to do in terms of ensuring that children who have been determined eligible for IDEA are able to access ECEAP programming with or without an IEP. I think there is a lot of room to connect with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in creating some clarity and some consistency between the two systems to ensure that children with disabilities can access both an ECEAP program and their special education services through a school district.
 - Wondering if these comments fit well within the section on ECEAP, Early Therapeutic, and Preventative Services section of the report?
 - For reference: <https://www.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/workgroups-committees/currently-meeting-workgroups/special-education-advisory-council-seac>
 - I would suggest DCYF connect specifically with the Special Education Action Council especially since children with disabilities are a prioritized population. I think that our systems need to be better prepared and understand the influx of children who have suspected and identified disabilities in our programs.
 - We recommend that eligibility is considered based on a more broad-based look at who is able to access, based on the cost of living, across our state. This feels a bit more like costs are going to get passed on to families and we're going to provide direct funding. When I think what the real issue is that we need to create and expand eligibility to more providers.
 - If we want to attract people to this field, we need to remove costs as a barrier completely. If we want to have a more educated workforce, then we have to increase compensation.
 - Making all childcare providers eligible for healthcare despite income may be too big of an ask and take all the money the state has to spend. Perhaps make an intermediary recommendation that includes a new eligibility measure that would utilize the self-sufficiency index by area of the state so that there is equity of access. Utilizing any measure that is based on a statewide measure will be inequitable.
 - The reason I like the self Sufficiency Index is because it indexes across all communities in Washington State the cost for basic living expenses, including childcare. Many other indexes don't include childcare as a way of figuring out the cost of living in an area.
 - Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the [ALICE Essentials Index](#) measures the cost increase of household basics only.
 - [The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington State](#)
- Expand Language Access***
- Have we recommended real-time translation for all webinars offered by DCYF as a matter of course?
 - We can add that!
 - This should be in written form as well. King County DOH and Best Starts for Kids along with Imagine Institute are examples of agencies that send out info in several languages within emails.
 - What's going to happen to the edits people submit?
 - Following this meeting, we will go back into the draft and update it with the notes we've captured that are specific to the recommendations. That draft will then be distributed to you all for further development to add more edits or ask more questions.



- Is it possible to share, more of the raw feedback and edits? This speaks to a certain level of gatekeeping where somebody's edits might be in, but others might not get in. It's helpful to see all of the suggestions and different perspectives.
 - Yes, we can absolutely send that out.

Implement Grants

- Before jumping into the recommendations, can we have an overview of where those recommendations came from?
 - Yes, we can absolutely provide more context and if anyone needs any clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Community Engagement team.
 - We can definitely commit to getting more of an introduction paragraph and having the recommendations called out more specifically in the next iteration of the draft.
- Do we have some or can we get some examples to show that yes indeed providers are being supported? Are the Complex Needs Funds truly resulting in children with developmental delays truly being supported? We need examples to support those claims. What do the Complex Needs Fund support?
 - We will look into that and see if the data is available yet or if it was tracked.
- We might need to edit this to say the intent of these grants is to do these things not that they are doing those things.
 - I would agree with that. In the field, it's the opposite.
 - I like the language of these funds are intended to do these things.
- Where is the evidence and data? I believe that stabilization grants did help providers during the pandemic to prevent them to close but we're still in economic recovery and there are more resources needed. I have concern with the equity part. I would like to see further exploration of that data that justifies the differences in what are awarded between providers to show those economies of scale.
- This entire section really relates a lot to the obligation that DCYF has in connecting with Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). There are federal obligations that that school districts have in ensuring that children with disabilities are located and served but that is distinctly disconnected from ECEAP services.

Strengthen Prenatal to Three Supports

- One of the things that would be helpful would be to look at ways to provide grants to keep people interested in waiting for their background check clearance. Also, being able to grow our own and giving more time for the pre-requisites that have to be accomplished, more time for basics, so that we can have staff that are encouraged to learn and grow in the field.
 - I agree, new staff do not come to us with the prerequisites finished and not only can they not be onsite, but technically we cannot employ or pay them.
- How much of this recommendation is tied to connecting with ESIT? Is DCYF considering home visiting programs for Early Head Start? Early Head Start and ECEAP serves infants and toddlers. Will ESIT be a resource to tap into infant populations that aren't necessarily accessing childcare because they don't know it's available to them? ESIT might be able to provide more substance.
 - Would it be helpful looking at the survey questions to provide more context and to include the recommendations in the report itself?
 - Yes, if there is no context, they won't know where this is coming from. The recommendations will make more sense.
- There needs to be increased funding to allow for more mental health professionals because there is a workforce issue and a huge demand.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Woman Infant Child (WIC) program has a home health nurse that works with the first steps program. The funding can be similar for a lot of these projects like creating a home health like setting for a lot of our families. ○ Yes - increasing funding to trusted partners like CCAWA versus DCYF reinventing the wheel by funding internal slots around this work. <p>Expand ECEAP, Early Therapeutic, and Preventative Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does anyone have any specific recommendations on how DCYF can provide more opportunities to connect with families? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have listening sessions. ● There needs to be communication with OSPI to have some type of consistency for families needing to access multiple childcare programs. ● I want to call out the use of the term special needs and being explicit. Identification of a disability comes with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Instead of special needs should we say complex needs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It's important to not bury the terminology of disability because it is a protected status. We should say what we mean, specifically. <p>Subsidy & Making Childcare Affordable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Including funding for outreach to families in different languages regarding Childcare Aware/Childfind/etc. <p>Expand Child Care Licensing Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please change the language in the second sentence to say negotiated rule-making instead of dialogue.
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Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The next ELAC Public Meeting will be on August 1, 2023. ● The next ELAC Report Development Special Meeting will be on August 15, 2023
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Members in Attendance:

Alexandra Martin-Truesdell, Astrid Newell, Claudette Lindquist, Colleen Condon, Danielle Rasmussen, Debbie Carlsen, Deeann Puffert, Dre Carrillo, Enrica Hampton, Heidi Scott, Isis Lara Fernandez, Lois Martin Jen Sandvig, Kathy Carman, Mary Rulewicz, Maya Ewings, Michelle Perez, Olivia Burley, Valerie Arnold

Members Absent:

Aida Rodriguez, Ami Magisos, Carlina Brown-Banks, Catherine Duffy, Christianna Clinton, Deborah Sioux Lee, Debbie Ham, Dr. Nucha Isarowong, Gary Burris, Jasmin Schmidt, Julie Rolling, Kathy Goebel, Kelsey Alger, Kimberly Hoover, Luz Gomez, Mari Leavitt, Nancy Spurgeon, Nigel Lawrence, Ryan Guzman, Samantha Bowen, Samantha Masters, Senator Claire Wilson, Sheryl Fryberg, Shereese Rhodes, Susan Yang, Valisa Smith