Washington State Department of
# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES
# Early Learning Advisory Council
# Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2022 – 11:00am-2:00pm
Virtual Meeting

**Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions**
ELAC Executive Committee member Lois Martin welcomed attendees, walked through virtual meeting protocols and initiated introductions. Members reviewed and approved the June 7, 2022 meeting minutes.

**Feedback Loop**
Lois Martin led the group in reviewing the Feedback Loop.
- Feedback Loop
  - Home Visiting Advisory Committee Final Recommendations
  - Home Visiting Advisory Committee Table of Recommendations

| Discussion | - Funding allocations for administrative work, is that clarified for DCYF?<br>  - That covers a variety of different things within DCYF. About 5-6 million of that went into technical assistance. That has also included some staffing, Liberatory Design training support and language access work. We are really trying to get some infrastructure out there with our administrative dollars. |
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**State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates**
Lois Martin led the group in reviewing the State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates.
- State Agency/Partner Updates
- Regional Coalition Updates

| Discussion | - North Central Washington did not have any regional updates this month as we are in the process of transitioning to a new fiscal agent, which will be a partnership between Catholic Charities and North Central Educational Service District (ESD).<br>- The Third Annual Indigenous Children, Youth, and Families conference is coming up on August 10 – August 11, 2022. It is a free virtual conference and you can register here.<br>- If you are interested in attending the Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) Beyond Connection Conference, you can register here. There are early bird registration rates until August 15 and discounted rates for childcare providers.<br>- Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs is continuing work through our State Military Family Child Care Workgroup and will be publishing our report of military family childcare needs in our State along with a set of recommendations soon.<br>- If you are interested in attending the Washington Perinatal & Parenting with Substance Use Summit, you can register here. |
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**Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability (OIAA) Data Share**
DCYF Director of the Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability (OIAA) Vickie Ybarra provided an overview of a new data dashboard and updates to support ELAC's Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) work.
- OIAA Data Share Presentation

| Discussion | - If the graph is true, childcare family home centers received significant more funds than centers. Centers provide services to more children than family homes.<br>  - I cannot answer the why question at this point, but the program folks may be able to answer that and speak to the disparities. |
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| | <ul><li>The disparity lies in the structure of the grants and more funding per child was allotted to family homes than centers. Also, more funding per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for the workforce dollar components.</li><li>One thing that we learned from the stabilization grant application process is the importance of having more community input. We recently experienced this shift through the in depth equity grant application discussions we had prior to the application being broadly distributed. I am hopeful that if more stabilization grants become available, it will go through a similar process.</li><li>Can we get information on the Equity Grant process and how/when community input was gathered? Such as, participant demographics, meeting notes, etc.?<ul><li>Yes, we can do that. We will go back and look at what we have, as we were planning a share out on the Equity grants process and the collaboration with community partners.</li></ul></li><li>We need data on amount of stabilization funds invested into each program type broken down per licensed capacity or number of kids served. This could be computed by licensing capacity, it could also be reported by number of early learning professionals employed at each learning facility. This will allow us to better understand that further grants need to be more equitable. Children and teachers at centers were treated with disparity. Is that data available?<ul><li>The public information will be available to do that analysis. I am hesitant to commit for our office to do that because it wasn't a directive of the grant. The data is certainly available publicly for someone to do that.</li></ul></li><li>Other than amount of distribution of stabilization grants, what were the outcomes measured?<ul><li>See the objectives of the Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) legislation on the second to last slide of the presentation.</li></ul></li><li>The childcare sector is still not in recovery and suffering from the staffing shortage. Are there any discussions and plans for future stabilization funds? Without them the sector faces an even more grim future.</li><li>The DCYF Child Care Stabilization Grant "Fast Facts" document is a great resource. Even though updates are needed, is this resource available online now?<ul><li>We can get an updated version posted with the Feedback Loop.</li></ul></li><li>How much more money is available?<ul><li>As of August 1, 2022, 13 million dollars left and available for grant award and we do get applications every day.</li></ul></li><li>One thing that seems vague to me is measuring and defining what it means to have stabilized the field. Analyzing rate of providers who are closing each month might be a good measure. In addition, DCYF had been tracking whether licensed providers had returned to pre-Coronavirus Disease (COVID) enrollment levels that could be another measure of stabilization.</li><li>It does not include data in reflective true number of providers because under each center resides many early learning teachers. While this shows disparity per child it does not include data on the disparity that fell on center staff. I understand we cannot go back but need to think of these very vital teachers moving further.</li></ul> |
| **Next Steps/Follow Up** | <ul><li>If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Vickie Ybarra at vickie.ybarra@dcyf.wa.gov.</li></ul> |

**2023 Legislative Session Planning**

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DCYF Assistant Secretary of Early Learning Nicole Rose, Government Affairs Advisor, Genevieve Stokes and Strategic Project Manager, Katrina Osborn provided an update on feedback received on the proposed 2023 Decision Packages.

- [2023 Legislative Session Planning Presentation](#)
- [Early Learning Decision Packages – ELAC Feedback Summary and Updates](#)
- [Language Access Plan Decision Package – ELAC Feedback Summary and Updates](#)

| Discussion | |
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| | • What are the other languages that will be supported? |
| |     o We are using the data to utilize how to move forward. This is a starting point and we have a wide range of needs across the state. If someone comes to us and needs interpretation and translation assistance that is something we are definitely supporting as they come in. |
| | • How will the other languages be supported exactly? |
| |     o That is work the language access coordinators will do. |
| | • Will you be coordinating with Cultivate Learning and Child Care Aware of Washington (CCA of WA) around the glossary that they have already been working on? |
| |     o We have not worked with Cultivate Learning and CCA of WA yet, but that is a fantastic idea and looking forward to connecting with them and including them in our work. |
| | • Will a center have access to a translator that we can use to translate our enrollment forms in alternate languages?  It is hard for a center to access someone to type things in alternative languages. |
| |     o We will share this idea with the Language Access team. |
| | • Completely agree that cost of care is what is needed. The percentiles are all based on families' ability to pay. |
| | • When you say it is written into law, does that mean your hands are tied and you can only do up to that? Do you have any decision making power to do better than law? |
| |     o It depends on if it is a policy level or maintenance level decision package. Since it is already written into law at the 80th percentile according to the 2021 Market Rate Survey.  The cost to do this is a couple million dollars. We are trying to figure out how to find something that is maintenance level. |
| | • Have you ever talked about goals in relation to actual numbers? Or could we move to those kind of metrics? |
| |     o Part of how we do that is looking at our caseload and looking at uptake and participation and we look at the big picture. About 15% of those families accepting subsidy are utilizing subsidy. |
| | • The Caseload Forecast Council discusses how many children and families do we expect to participate and how would the policies effect those children and families. |
| | • What regions did that 16% increase go above 85th percentile? Did you say the 2018 market rate survey or the 2021 survey? |
| |     o 2021 Market Rate Survey. |
| | • Why 2025 and not 2024? |
| |     o 2025 is the next biennial budget. |
| | • Is there anything that is being done to help raise rates? Even raising 16%. |
| |     o The 16% was an increase across the board. We want to bring everybody up to the 85th percentile to equal out those rates. 2025 is a ways away and we are hoping that this interim step of getting everyone raised to the 85th percentile of the 2021 Market Rate Survey will help. |
| | • But when we're only talking about 24,000, increasing reimbursement to the 85th percentile won't have much, if any impact on the sector overall. |
| | • You can view the Child Care Subsidy Rates Regional Map [here](#). Region 3 is Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties, Region 5 is Pierce County. |

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|  | • Is it really only concretely written that you can only do so much with those dollars?<br>   ◦ When we talk about market rate survey versus cost of care there are specific things we have to do when we work with Region 10 who are the federal folks we work on the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) with. We are required by CCDF to do a market rate survey every three years or have an alternative methodology. The Feds have to approve that alternative methodology. It is really important for us to partner with the Child Care Collaborative Task Force, partners in King County and City of Seattle as they were looking at cost of care so we can test things out and get support from the Feds early on the methodology we want to move forward with. We are feeling confident about moving forward on that methodology we want to use.<br>• There was some work a few years back on changing the regional rate structures. Where is that?<br>   ◦ That will occur as part of the rate model process that comes when we've completed the cost model, so very much still in the works.<br>• Are there plans for any of the No's to become Yes's or possible in 2024 or are you strictly just looking at biennial budgets?<br>   ◦ Biennial budgets are in the odd years and that is when we can ask for big things and supplemental budgets are in the even years and are smaller things we can ask because we try and scale our asks out. We can look into that.<br>• One obstacle to applying for Complex Needs Fund (and Equity Grants) is that providers with any Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) slots have to apply through the ECEAP Contractor, but they may have far more childcare slots than ECEAP, meaning that their amounts will be less. It creates a disincentive for childcare providers to do ECEAP.<br>• The Equity Grant is competitive and it is not closed yet, I don't see why it can't be changed, which would allow more folks to apply and less disparities and barriers for providers. Would be possible to receive that information sooner rather than later given the time sensitivity?<br>   ◦ I do not have the answer to that today. It may be a real technical issue so just want to acknowledge that. Yes, we are happy to do that and will work with the Community Engagement team to hopefully get back to you all by the end of this week.<br>• Would be great if this could be resolved in this round. |
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| **Next Steps/Follow Up** | • You can view the Child Care Subsidy Rates Regional Map here.<br>• You can view the ELAC and Provider Supports Subcommittee Early Childhood Equity Grant Design Team Update here. |

## Closing Remarks/Adjourn

• Meeting Reflection Questions and Responses

| **Next Steps/Follow Up** | • The next Early Learning Advisory Council meeting will be on October 4, 2022. |
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