



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2020 – 9:00am – 2:00pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Welcome & Introductions

- DCYF Deputy Director of Community Engagement Deanna Stewart welcomed attendees and initiated introductions.
- Members voted to approve the [October 6](#) meeting minutes.

State Agency/Partner Updates, Regional Coalition Updates and Feedback Loop

Members reviewed and discussed the State Agency/Partner Updates, Regional Coalition Updates and Feedback Loop.

- [State Agency/Partner Updates](#)
- [Regional Coalition Updates](#)
- [Feedback Loop](#)
- [PDG Design List](#)
- [CPI Work Group](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there some way to find out what the challenges are for the coalitions, so I can be aware of the cross-sector work that is happening and how we can support our school age and birth to five populations and their providers? I do not see a report from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We can definitely reach out and ask that question specifically. We will provide written update via email. ○ The regional coalitions do not have the relationship we would like with school districts right now; I am glad to hear that is top of mind for you.
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DCYF Oversight Board

DCYF Oversight Board Executive Director Crista Johnson and Board Member Lois Martin provided an overview of the work of the Oversight Board.

- [Oversight Board Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be translation services for providers who want to be a part of the DCYF Oversight Board? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The application is not currently translated, but we do have access to those services. We will add the information about how to get translated resources on the website, thank you. • I think it is really important to make those applications accessible and give providers who speak languages other than English an opportunity to participate. • You are looking for school age providers, as well as birth-5? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes. • Where do provider issues with Washington Administrative Code (WACs)/policy get collected so it can be passed on into legislation or policy changes, if needed? How, as a legislator, can I hear these concerns early on before they cause providers trouble? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I think what you are getting at is looking at the WACs and trying to determine which ones can be changed, so that there is less of a challenge/burden for providers. • Whose responsibility is it to ease that, can the agency step forward and make the necessary changes? Typically, we hear from the stakeholders that things aren't working. DCYF doesn't step up and say these are the WACS/policies we need to look at. Where is
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	<p>the best place to have this conversation? It isn't always legislation. In support of quality, but also the understanding of what providers actually go through on a day to day basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are providers being asked to spend hours going around their facility/home with an iPhone or tablet? I haven't been hearing as much about that. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I walked around for 2.5 hours on Zoom last Tuesday with a licenser (not my usual) with a 10-minute phone call follow up. We went through five classrooms. ○ I think that goes to providers feeling like they don't have power to push back on that. We feel like we just have to accept the mandates that come down – even if we don't find them reasonable. • Is there any intent to set benchmarks for decreased family separation? I think there should be an end goal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That is excellent feedback. The subcommittee will be looking into that. We can bring that back to the oversight board as a whole for our 2021 report.
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Dual Licensing

DCYF Licensing Analysts Sonya Stevens and Michelle Giard provided updates on the Dual Licensing Pilot.

- [Dual Licensing Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would the individuals doing this also be able to be a part of respite care? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I do see that being a possibility. The issue we are going to come across is the overnight hours. Sleeping arrangements are very particular for foster care children, so we do want to limit overnight hours.
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DCYF Integrated Strategic and Racial Equity Plan

DCYF's Director of the Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability Vickie Ybarra, The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Directors, Evette Jasper and LaToya Holmes-Ware provided updates on DCYF's Integrated Strategic and Racial Equity Plan.

- [Integrated Strategic and Racial Equity Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group split into four breakout rooms to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How can ELAC and other DCYF advisory bodies be reflective of and center the voices of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)? ○ How could we best reflect the role of high quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) as prevention in our strategic plan? ○ How can we develop approaches, pathways of support, and alternatives to reporting suspected child abuse and neglect and imprisoning our young people? • There needs to be more education and awareness around cultural differences in parenting norms. How do we work at the community level to shift that framing? • The emphasis on wraparound holistic pre-school services needs to be a part of basic education or in some way make sure that our budget represents the value of Early Childhood Education. Right now ECE is a first place to look for budget cuts. • We need to make sure technology is available and accessible. We need to compensate our BIPOC individuals to be involved in the conversation more. More accessibility regarding languages services. BIPOC communities should be represented across the board. We need to show that we value diversity up front. Prioritize monolingual speakers. • Don't just check a box that BIPOC individuals are in the room, are they in agreement? Are they given the space and respect to share their concerns/feedback/input? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Center the voices of the individuals we work with (we work for). • Support families; give them the resources to meet their goals, connecting more with behavioral health instead of offering a disjointed system to our families. • How are we going to reintegrate after COVID – that needs to be top of mind.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do our incarcerated youth, some of whom are parents themselves, fit into the equation? • Relational health work force that is culturally responsive. • Connect the dots between high quality learning environments and lower rates of preschool expulsion – need to provide staff trainings about behavioral supports as well as implicit bias. • When it comes to prevention, there are barriers to accessing behavioral therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, etc. at the pre-school age. These resources show tremendous success with younger children, but often they don't have access to those services until they are under the school district umbrella.
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Policy Development and Review

DCYF's Deputy Director of Government Affairs Allison Krutsinger and Government Affairs Advisor Genevieve Stokes provided updates on the upcoming legislative session and DCYF programs.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you say the report would come out in December or January? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The goal is to get it out before session, so in December. We are a bit behind schedule. ○ Both House and Senate (today and Friday) will be hearing from the Tri-Chairs. • Do you think it will be smooth sailing with the licensing bill? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, that was our intention in refining the bill. We hope there will be no issues. • When the report comes back, it would be great if you would share the feedback so we can continue the work we are focused on. • Is the House hearing public? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, it is viewable on TVW, https://www.tvw.org/schedule-main/ • How are they going to handle public testimony? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You can sign up remotely up to an hour before (senate) and a day before (house); you will be in a virtual room and muted until it is your turn to give testimony. They have not figured out how to incorporate the timer in a respectful way. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank you - very concerned about equitable technology access for community members and hoping it will be addressed. ○ Link to remote testimony sign up for the House: https://app.leg.wa.gov/CSIRemote/House ○ Link to remote testimony sign up for the Senate: https://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Pages/RemoteTestimony.aspx
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Preschool Development Grant

Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Birth through Five Administrator Tracie Kenney and PDG Specialist Delta Heiberg requested feedback on the new Draft Statewide Early Learning Plan.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are these documents and links; specific site and pages? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Here is a link to the PDG Webpage where these links and documents will be once they're live: https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/about/government-community/legislative-federal-relations/pdg
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Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting will take place virtually on Tuesday, February 2.
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