



# Provider Supports Subcommittee of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2022 – 9:00 am - 2:30 pm  
Virtual Meeting

### Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Meeting Minutes Review

- DCYF Deputy Director of Community Engagement Deanna Stewart welcomed attendees and walked through the virtual meeting protocols.
- Members reviewed the [December 1, 2021 meeting minutes](#).

### Feedback Loop & Agency Updates

- [Feedback Loop](#)
- [Agency Updates](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking at the bill for apprenticeship, why is it listed as a bill of note and how does it intersect with our field? Can you also ask which bills are moving forward and which ones are dead? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We will check with the Government Affairs team to get an answer on that.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For the Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) Temporary Licensing Subcommittee, maybe it was in the annual reflection, the conversation that this subcommittee would be a part of that task force and group. If we are interested in being in that group should we let you know? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initially we were going to have the FSKA Temporary Licensing Subcommittee to be the Provider Supports Subcommittee but to have better representation we decided to open it up to everyone. If you would like to be included, please reach out to us at <a href="mailto:dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov">dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov</a> and we can add you to the distribution list.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Hoping to talk about changing the narrative and language on the wage for child care providers. Moving our workforce to a driving wage as well as talking about child care like every other field need investment.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you would like to be included on the Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) Temporary Licensing Subcommittee distribution list, please reach out to us at <a href="mailto:dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov">dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov</a> and we can add you.</li> </ul>

### Introductions & Getting to Know You Activity

Members engaged in a small group getting to know you activity.

### Early Achievers

DCYF Quality Recognition and Improvement System Administrator Rachael Brown-Kendall provided an update of the early adopter’s process and outcomes, information about supports and heard about successes in provider virtual engagement.

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can find information on the Early Achievers Accreditation Policy <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• Where is the list of all accepted accreditations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National accreditation that is included in Early Achievers is located on this <a href="#">page</a> in English, Spanish and Somali, in a box on the side of the page with the sun logo.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Are the ratings in person? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is virtual.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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- With the COVID and quarantines adding to the staffing crisis, I'm concerned about having to divert my attention to a rating.
  - If we contact you, you can defer which means we would move you to the bottom of the long queue.
- Besides the emails being sent out is there a plan for those who email is not the best way of communicating?
  - That is something we know is a gap in our communications. One of the supports is for coaches to help process information with providers. Our goal is to take this information and condense it into a more digestible format. We will be having webinars coming up on this too. If you have suggestions, please send them to Rachael Brown-Kendall at [rachael.brown-kendall@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:rachael.brown-kendall@dcyf.wa.gov).
- Pre-recorded videos are helpful.
- We will have better access with more ways of communication from DCYF.
- You can find more information on the Early Achievers Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) webpage [here](#).
- Who will be assisting the non-English speakers with technology and language?
  - Videos are available in English, Spanish and Somali at the moment on CQI webpage.
- Do you foresee ever returning to in person ratings?
  - I don't anticipate to returning to all in person work. We are on a virtual path.
- What are the qualifications of the individuals who are viewing and rating our video's and files?
  - Quality Recognition Specialists are early childhood experts and have college degrees. Their main qualification is they have worked with children in classrooms before and have early childhood education experience. You can count on consistency and fairness is based on best practice and literature. They all take internal review board training as part of onboarding.
- How are you going to handle the difference in technology? There is a big difference in accessing an iPhone and Android and to make sure folks aren't losing any points because of that.
  - Yes, coaches can support you with the videos.
- If someone was going to do the paperwork on the list that was shared today, you shared your videos and completed everything. When would someone anticipate a response?
  - We have a little bit of an unknown here in trying a new process. It is hard for us to know right now because we don't know how motivated folks are to move on to the next phase. There is some learning we have to do and it will be a process.
- Are coaches able to review videos and provide feedback prior to submission?
  - Yes, each provider will have the ultimate choice of which videos to submit. And coaches can work with you on the videos you submit and provide feedback.
- Are videos expected to include children? It's difficult for staff to be engaging without children, yet there's a confidentiality concern in sending videos that include children.
  - We are trying to make it as comfortable for our teachers by doing "practice videos" with feedback from our coach and other teachers.
- Any concerns around privacy/confidentiality with videos? If families do not wish to have their child recorded, how will this be addressed?
  - We will have an in person option.
- Having a standard parent permission form would be helpful so the language is the same and allow for an opt out option for families who prefer not to have their child recorded.
- We feel that our phones will not have the storage space for the videos and thinking we need to purchase a device just for doing ten minute videos.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We have a lending library in each region where people can borrow tripods and iPods and we have tried that out with providers around the state. We do have a process in place for people and we can upload the video for you or help you in uploading. If you need a lending library, you can contact your community liaison and they will get you connected with one.</li> <li>● We need a standard form. Even if it is in Washington Administrative Code (WAC), this is a different process. We had one before and if we are sharing it would be great to have one produced.</li> <li>● Among Early Adopters providers, have providers shared who is doing most of the filming? Are directors doing that?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Video Highlights Early Adopters has not yet started. We are entering into this new part of Early Adopters; this is something we are wanting to learn. There is a lot of flexibility in how videos are being captured and we are very interested in seeing how those are captured.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● How long do video's stay on file?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Videos will stay on file. If someone requests a video be removed there are rules we have to follow with keeping videos for a certain amount of time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Are these edited snippet videos or 15 minutes running?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We don't have expectations of edited videos. We are hoping these videos are recorded naturally. We would like to see 10-15 minutes running.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● If the families don't want them recorded I do not feel comfortable including them in a video.</li> <li>● Can you also provide the rubric you are using? I don't see that posted on the website. Maybe I am missing it?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ That is one of the things we are finalizing and can share with everyone once it is ready.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You can reach the DCYF Early Achievers team at: <a href="mailto:QRIS@dcyf.wa.gov">QRIS@dcyf.wa.gov</a> or 866-922-7629</li> </ul>

**WAC Change Petition Process**

DCYF Childcare Policy Program Manager Tyler Farmer provided an overview of the rulemaking (WAC Change) process with a focus on the Petition Process. Members had the opportunity to ask questions.

- [Rule Making Fact Sheet](#)

<p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Do these petitions always go to the public comment portal? Is there not a better way to have folks provide public comment besides the portal? People saw it as a black hole. There really isn't a lot of opportunity for people to engage like they are today. The portal is technology that not everyone is comfortable with and there is no discussion or engagement with that like Negotiated Rule Making (NRM).             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are a couple parts I think you are referring to here. Every rule change for the most part is subject to public comment. That is the whole point to having this process. The public needs to be made aware there is a change coming and given an opportunity to provide their opinion. What we try to do as an agency is inform all of our stakeholders groups on top of what is statutorily required. We can send out that information to folks who want that information.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Wondering if we could send this to providers and organizations?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, it depends on what the rule change is and what avenue we go. We try to get rule changes in front of everyone before updating anything. Shortly after this meeting we will be sending information about the diaper changing privacy petition out to all licensed child care providers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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- Out of curiosity, how many public petitions on WAC, on an average, get accepted? Do you see a trend around time of petitions or type?
  - Currently, in the licensing world petitions are relatively few and far between and we have received four in the last five years. I encourage this group to submit more petitions and it is a fantastic tool and another way to get the conversation started and your voice heard if there is a concern with the rules.
- I think it's because no one knew it existed.
  - Yeah, we are trying to get this information out there since it is part of the rule making process.
- It's often said that things are "on the DCYF website" but it's not an easy site to navigate or find specific items.
- The permanent rule making process takes about five months.
- Since the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) is able to bargain, do they negotiate for funds to aid in implementing or remodeling that might be needed to be compliant with changes to the WAC?
  - Yes, I believe that is true.
- Who is involved in deciding that a WAC should be temporarily changed for an emergency?
  - Emergency rules always land at the leadership level. It depends on what the emergency is and what program it relates to because the leadership may work with the program experts on those emergency rules.
- If you have an emergency rule that you need to make permanent is that a reason to extend it 120 more days?
  - No, if the reason for needing to make an emergency rule permanent is the only reason to extend it another 120 days, then that is not sufficient to extend.
- If the emergency is ongoing and we know it needs to become permanent we can file the emergency rule as permanent and work with stakeholders to make it permanent as soon as possible. If the emergency rule is not decided upon to become permanent within the 120 days, we can extend it another 120 days.
- I have a question about "Meeting a deadline to receive federal funding"— given such a circumstance presumably would be able to be anticipated by the state.
  - That is not always true. COVID was a good example of an unanticipated emergency.
- This WAC change will be seen by some providers as an unfunded mandate. WAC requires a handwashing sink be adjacent to the diaper changer. Changing the WAC to require some providers to move their diaper changing station which could impact plumbing.
- Are you in control of how public comments are delivered back? Is it just a survey with the rule changes and an equitable approach would be to have webinars in different languages for people to attend and provide information.
  - The response to the public comment is with the Rules Coordinator.
- When we have new changes in the WAC, how can there be better ways to be informed in different languages? Providers also need training in our language on how to understand and follow these WAC's.
  - We are working on the WAC notice portion, we have the website you can go to and sign up for WAC change email updates and come out in newsletters. I do know newsletters are translated in different languages frequently. If there is ever a document that you would like translated, please reach out to your licensor and they can work with us to get that translated.
- Providers need more supports, trainings and resources in general and when serving children with special needs. We want to be inclusive and provide supports to all children and families.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I agree. We need to make these changes more accessible for home providers, DCYF training in different languages is an excellent idea for a better understanding and for better support.</li> <li>• The financial impact of WAC changes needs to be considered.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ That is always valuable feedback.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**DCYF Diaper Changing Privacy Petition Update**

Tyler Farmer provided an update and an opportunity to provide feedback on the DCYF Diapering Station Privacy Petition.

- [Diaper Changing Privacy Petition](#)
- [DCYF Proposed Changes to Diaper Changing Privacy](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It seems there should be a committee in that preliminary stage that includes a provider.</li> <li>• I see that your suggested change is not what the petitioner is requesting, but it is still a change that will impact providers, and cause some to have to remodel.</li> <li>• Based on subjective interpretation of "viewed by public." What about a tour? We are putting a lot of traction on one person's point of view.</li> <li>• Of course teachers are going to do their best to manage and help children with their privacy but there could be moments.</li> <li>• Worried this is a slippery slope. A lot of early learning classrooms have bathrooms but not stalls.</li> <li>• We all care about safety. I think that makes a good point, though, unfunded mandate. Any rule changes should also factor in the costs associated with that change.</li> <li>• I believe such concerns about a facility should be worked out by negotiating solutions at the site with the facility staff and parents. The families need to support this process.</li> <li>• If it is moving forward, could it be edited to say "... screened in a way intended to prevent the viewing..."</li> <li>• Transparency is key for our organizations. Families trust what we do and how we protect our children.</li> <li>• Licensors, tours, other observers often are in programs in addition to teachers, parents, volunteers, and children.</li> <li>• The draft would be best if it specifically indicates exterior window be covered with impervious material.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ And covering a window for some providers may interfere with air flow, an unintentional consequence of having specific language.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• I feel all of this is a moot point. DCYF should not create a new WAC or adjustment that has nothing to do with the petition. (Photos and videos from the outside looking in) There are laws already out there stating that is illegal.</li> <li>• If a WAC is created from this petition, it proves that the "slippery slope" is correct. DCYF not staying in their lane; interpreting complaints and creating subjective solutions.</li> <li>• I think the proposed language assumes that all persons inside the building are affiliated with the childcare.</li> </ul>
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**Stabilization and Equity Grants**

DCYF Assistant Secretary of Early Learning Nicole Rose provided an update on Stabilization Grants, Complex Needs Fund, and gave members an opportunity to provide input on Equity Grants.

- [Stabilization and Equity Grants Presentation](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Stabilization Grants Awarded chart clearly shows the inequitable distribution of the grants to family child care homes and child care centers. The Cost of Care calculations point to using a flat per capacity calculation yet there was a cap, so the largest centers with the largest expenses received the least per child.</li> <li>• Are Early Childhood Equity Grants inclusive of school age only programs?</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ You would be eligible for this grant if you are a licensed school age program.</li> <li>● If you look at the per child amount between what center’s received per child versus family home it is approximately \$5,281 per child (home) and \$1,249 (center). I am hopeful the equity grants will have a more even distribution between the two segments of our field.</li> <li>● Hopeful the make-up of staff versus population served is part of the criteria as well.</li> <li>● Being that we're hearing from colleagues in other states how the distribution went, I'm curious if DCYF is also looking into how other states distributed.</li> <li>● Regarding the data, there should be capacity number for Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) providers.</li> <li>● There is an inequity to the equity grants because larger organizations have access to grant writers and smaller may not.</li> <li>● New format on this and another meeting would be helpful.</li> <li>● It would be helpful to have the form in a different format and maybe have more concise questions so you can receive more feedback instead of clarifying questions.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You can find information on the decision making behind the awarded stabilization grants on the DCYF website <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>● The Community Engagement team will send out communication regarding a follow-up meeting to address this topic and continue this conversation.</li> </ul>

**2021 Reflection and 2022 Work Plan Development**

Deanna Stewart and DCYF Community Engagement Manager Erin Kerrigan led the group in reviewing the 2021 Annual Reflection and 2022 Draft Work Plan.

- [2021 Annual Reflection](#)
- [2022 Draft Work Plan](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Are we able to add 2022 topics?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, we were going to break out into small groups today and talk more in depth about that.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Providers are not feeling like they are understanding the Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation and what their rights are, a request compared to a requirement. Who is the lead person we can call if we have questions about CPS investigations?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Answer</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Worried that this group isn’t getting all the voices who need to be heard at the table and representation, such as people of color. How is the membership/representation decided?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ These meetings are open to the public and if there are providers who you feel should be at the table, they are more than welcome to join these meetings. During the April meeting, this group will be electing an Executive Committee who can address that. You can find information on membership and our recent recruitment effort to expand representation on the DCYF Provider Supports Subcommittee webpage <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Community Engagement team will send out the Work Plan along with a survey for Members to provide their feedback.</li> </ul>

**Closing Remarks/Adjourn**

- [Meeting Reflection Question Responses and Feedback](#)

<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The next Provider Supports Subcommittee meeting will be on April 6, 2022.</li> </ul>
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