



Early Learning Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2022 – 11:00 am – 3:30 pm
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

ELAC Executive Committee member Lois Martin welcomed attendees, walked through virtual meeting protocols, and initiated introductions.

DCYF Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) Update

DCYF Chief of Staff Frank Ordway provided an update on the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ).

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You indicated that the staff that left ORESJ are now in leadership positions and still connect with DCYF in some way. Can you speak more about this? What processes are in place as it relates to transferring their knowledge to support the new team? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The former team has been very gracious with their time. They all have been meeting with the new team and have been available when the new team has questions. • During their exit interviews, did the three members share why they left? If so, can you summarize the top 2-3 reasons and what the agency is planning to do to address those concerns to remove any internal roadblocks to slow the impact of this critical team? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I can't share specific HR data but there were things about this work that are very hard and there was also a lack of internal support. The team was under-resourced in areas like administrative support. The team has since grown. Licensing, Child Welfare, and Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) will also be funding other positions so we will have a team of seven to support the work. • I did appreciate seeing the advice of ELAC was taken and the RESJ team is now a cabinet level position. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, I'm excited and we will be the first agency that has them there. Everybody is really committing to this work. • I appreciate you calling out the training is not going to change behaviors because it does have to be a personal commitment to the work. I also appreciate the call out to sovereignty and what that means. A lot of times we forget that our tribes are the first people of this land and we never want to forget that and how it reflects on the work. The commitment of individuals working within the department is key to everything. I'm really grateful for this work and excited to see change in how we respect people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you. This is the most important work that we are a part of. The work with the tribes is something that secretary Hunter takes seriously.
Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have any questions or additional feedback, feel free to reach out to Frank Ordway (frank.ordway@dcyf.wa.gov).

Review of Meeting Minutes, Feedback Loops, State Agency/Partner Updates and Regional Coalition Updates

Lois Martin led the group in reviewing the December 6 meeting minutes, feedback loop, and the State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates.

- [December 6, 2022 meeting minutes.](#)
- [Feedback Loop](#)
- [State Agency/Partner Updates](#)



• [Regional Coalition Updates](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking at the OSPI technical report around integrated and inclusive programs for pre-k age children, could you share more about that work at a future meeting? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, absolutely. We have brought that forward to ELAC in the past but this is the second iteration of the joint agency report and I agree this is a great opportunity to bring us back and see where we can advocate together. The Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) has published a report on child care for military families in Washington. You can access the report here. In February 2022, the Department of Defense expanded Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN)-PLUS, its child care fee assistance program for military families, to Washington. Now, child care providers that are state licensed can have national accreditation (from Department of Defense approved accrediting bodies) or be quality rated through Washington State’s Early Achievers program to be eligible for this fee assistance subsidy program. To learn more, visit Work with Military Children MCC Central. Washington has been selected as a pilot state for the Army National Guard’s Weekend Drill Child Care program. The Weekend Drill Child Care provides no-cost, hourly child care to support Army National Guard families during their scheduled weekend drill periods. Provider eligibility requirements are different than for MCCYN/MCCYN-PLUS and include state licensure, background check, liability insurance, first aid/CPR certification, and weekend availability. Learn more here.
-------------------	---

Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) Update

Members received an overview of WCFC, an update on their work and participated in a Q&A session

• [WCFC Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please find a link to the WCFC website with Regional contact information here. Please find a link to the WCFC webpage about the Learning Networks here. HB 1199
Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For anyone who would like to learn more about Health Provider Voice or be added to the meeting/email list please contact Taylor Caragan at TCaragan@tpchd.org For anyone interested in joining our Resource Navigation & Access team meeting, please reach out to jenny@washingtoncfc.org. If you have any follow up questions please reach out to Rachel Hall at rachelh@first5fundamentals.org or info@washingtoncfc.org.

OIAA FSKA Evaluation and Data Update

DCYF Director of the Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability (OIAA) Vickie Ybarra, FSKA Senior Evaluator Adassa Budrevich-Ryan, FSKA Analyst Justin Seppi, and Min Hwangbo, Impact Director with Washington STEM provided an update on the data dashboards that support ELAC’s FSKA work.

• [OIAA Early Learning Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the charts actual data or test data? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is actual data. Are you looking for feedback on which visualization will be most useful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We’d love your reaction to all the charts but you can also definitely let us know which one you’d find the most helpful. So, to make it simple, (Green + Blue) = In the system v. Yellow = Exit? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of these providers would have been providing aid service in that calendar year. Is this information tracked at the child care employee/staff level?
-------------------	---



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We do have some information at the employee staff level but today and for our work this year it is showing provider organizations. ● Easy to look at but want numbers of entry and exit. ● Is it true there could be a combination used for the charts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, that's correct. ● Combine waterfall and stacked? And I do like the line chart for different reasons. ● This could also reflect numbers for those childcare providers that have moved and closed one license and opened a new license at the new address. ● Please find a demo link to Child Care Supply/Demand Dashboard here. ● I second the ask on data of staff wage and benefit rates over the years and staff retention rates over the years. Is there any chance to provide data based on county? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you for the suggestions. We may be able to produce some table data on provider churn by county in the report. I don't believe we yet have access inside DCYF to wage and benefit data (although we'd like to get it, we need to enter into a data share agreement with Employment Security). And then of course as I mentioned, provider retention we're interested in reporting, likely in future reports. ○ Some information can be found here.
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please reach out to Vickie Ybarra (vickie.ybarra@dcyf.wa.gov), Adassa Budrevich-Ryan (adassa.budrevich-ryan@dcyf.wa.gov), Justin Seppi (brian.seppi@dcyf.wa.gov), or Min Hwangbo (min@washingtonstem.org) with any follow-up questions.

Early Learning Division Structure Update

DCYF Federal Initiatives and Collaboration Administrator Matt Judge and DCYF QRIS Administrator Rachael Brown-Kendall provided members with an update on the Early Learning Division structure.

- [Early Learning Division Structure Presentation](#)

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is great! Lots of work of amazing work. For families, are their resources for LGBTQ+ families that help them identify LGBTQ+ friendly services, especially around gender identity development? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We will follow up on this and discuss this within our division and the ORESJ team. ● Are there resources for families if their children might have disabilities (services, what families should know, where to find development screenings)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, that would be with The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (EASIT) program and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). There are also many childcare programs that offer screenings. ● DCYF is not taking seriously what we're doing in our different communities and what we have access to. Things are really challenging right now. How can we authentically bring in community voice and honor it in program development? Something needs to change in how decisions are made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you for sharing that. It's really important for our Early Learning teams to hear what's working and what's not working. Authentic engagement is transformational to the system. ● Is there a section on what is happening around strategy alignment between pre-natal to 3rd grade? What is the latest around state and local collaboration between school districts and early learning providers? Yes to highlighting local strategies! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is pre-school development grant work happening along this alignment. Find more information here. ● Is this being designed for families to go to? Is there a centralized place for families to find this information?
--------------------------	---



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That’s helpful feedback in terms of how we frame things and we can be clear to families on where they should go for information. A centralized location would be Help Me Grow and Parent Help 123. These parallel our work but are targeted to family supports. ● When is the deadline to name the new group? Are you partnering with trusted messengers to share this ask with the field? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We don’t have a set deadline but are hoping to decide soon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maybe the communications group could send something out to the field. That way you could have input from the field and could utilize childcare aware of WA or early achievers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thank you, that is great feedback. ● Where do relationships with tribes fit in? They were not mentioned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That is a wonderful point to make. It is not called out but yes, absolutely, our partnerships with tribes is encompassed in all areas.
Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please reach out to Matt Judge (matt.judge@dcyf.wa.gov) or Rachel Brown-Kendall (rachel.brown-kendall@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow-up questions. ● If interested in giving your opinion on the new identity for the Integrated Professional Development and Early Achievers team, please take their survey here.

Cost of Care Rate Model Charter and Work Plan

DCYF Federal Initiatives and Collaboration Administrator Matt Judge and DCYF Child Care Subsidy Program Administrator Jason Ramynke provided members with an update on the Cost of Care Rate Model Charter and Work Plan.

- [Cost of Care Presentation](#)

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please reach out to Matt Judge (matt.judge@dcyf.wa.gov) or Jason Ramynke (jason.ramynke@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow-up questions.
-----------------------------	---

New DCYF Training Site for Child Care Providers

DCYF Learning Management System Coordinator, Karma Hugo and DCYF Professional Development Coordinator, Marlene White provided an update on the new Learning Management System for early learning and child care providers.

- [Training Site Presentation](#)
- [December 6 ELAC Feedback](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You can stay up-to-date with DCYF’s New Training Site through this dedicated webpage. ● How does this work connect with MERIT? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently, people who are looking for training will go into MERIT but then have to move to another site to take trainings. These pieces will come together. People will go into the new training site to search and take trainings so everything is united under one site. ● Is it ok if we share this out to our networks? When do you want the feedback to you by? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes absolutely, please share it. Is a month too long? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I think that gives opportunity for regional advisors to get this to their coalitions. ● DCYF’s New Training Site Webinar Update (10 minutes): English ● DCYF’s New Training Site, Webinar Update (11 minutes), Spanish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both webinars will be posted to the DCYF Webinars Webpage soon!
Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please reach out to Karma (karma.hugo@dcyf.wa.gov) or Marlene (marlene.white@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow-up questions.



Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next Early Learning Advisory Council meeting will be on April 11, 2023.
-----------------------------	---

Members in Attendance: Aida Rodriguez, Alexandra Martin-Truesdell, Colleen Condon, Debbie Carlsen, Debbie Ham, Deeann Puffert, Enrica Hampton, Heidi Scott, Isis Lara Fernandez, Kathy Carman, Lois Martin, Nancy Spurgeon, Nigel Lawrence, Olivia Burley, Ryan Guzman, Sheryl Fryberg, Valerie Arnold

Members Absent:

April Shiosaki, Carlina Brown-Banks, Catherine Duffy, Christianna Clinton, Claudette Lindquist, Deborah Sioux Lee, Dr. Nucha Isarowong, Gary Burris, Gray Sterling, Jasmin Schmidt, Kathy Goebel, Kathy Yasi, Kelsey Alger, Kimberly Hoover, Luz Gomez, McKinley McPheeters, Rabeeha Ghaffer, Representative Bob McCaslin, Representative Lisa Callan, Samantha Bowen, Samantha Masters, Senator Claire Wilson, Shereese Rhodes, Susan Yang, Valisa Smith