



Provider Supports Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2023 14, 2022- 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Introductions, Virtual Meeting Protocols, and Meeting Material Review

Provider Supports Executive Committee member Julie Schroath welcomed members, reviewed virtual meeting protocols, and completed introductions. The group reviewed the December meeting minutes, Feedback Loop, and State Agency Updates.

- [December 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Feedback Loop](#)
- [State Agency Updates](#)
- [Legislative Updates](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We received an announcement about another \$4 million grant DCYF has received. Is there going to be more information about that as well today? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DCYF was a successful applicant for the preschool development grant (PDG) and it is meant to build upon the previous PDG work. More information about the grant can be found on the DCYF website here. • With HB 1550 transition to kindergarten (TK), will there be an analysis on the impacts of preschool in the childcare sector in the work you are doing in relation to this grant? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For this specific grant, we will not have analysis on the expansion of two entitlement programs (transitional kindergarten and state funded pre-kindergarten). • What are the amendments to HB 1550 that are causing concern? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transitional Kindergarten (TK) would be taken out of basic education and there wouldn't be regular funding associated with that. By taking it out of basic education, the legislature would have to appropriate funds and schools would have to apply to be TK schools. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and DCYF have written amendments that say leave it in basic education and do not hold public schools to the early learning standards that licensed care is and also open up after school programs for TK programs and Working Connections Childcare. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ My understanding is they are asking for these TK programs to be able to get subsidy without the Early Achievers Rating System. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think that piece is not quite accurate. When entities are accepting subsidy, they do have to be licensed or certified for payment only. • Is DCYF supporting the bill and the amendments? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We know that we are still not yet serving all children and families, and so this is an opportunity to think about how do we really partner with OSPI
Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please reach out to the Community Engagement Team (dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov) with any questions.



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).

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does your office look like in terms of diversity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have people that represent various races, sexes, tribal affiliations, personal histories, and lived experiences. We are doing our best to find people who not only have the experience and commitment to the work but who can reach and be heard by different communities throughout the state. • Who holds this group accountable? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This group reports to the Chief of Staff and the DCYF leadership table. • I'm hoping that we can have you attend this meeting twice a year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I'm happy to make that commitment. • Can you reassure that the Community Engagement (CE) team is not going away and that there is a commitment to it growing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have had turnover. Our commitment to CE is firm. The staff in both the ORESJ office and CE team will be increasing. We're being asked to really broaden our engagement, so that means amplifying and strengthening these groups, but it also means that other voices will be asked to come to the table. • What about external accountability to the people? The transparency isn't necessarily there now to have trust between the people and the government entity. Where is that accountability built into the system? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is something we struggle with and understand that it is frustrating. We are a regulatory agency that licenses and pays people. Our ability to engage isn't always easy, but advisory groups are an important part to call us out when we're not transparent. Continuing to invest our time together is a big part, your continued engagement with the legislature is also part of the accountability circle. We are still growing and learning about the best way to support and sustain services. • We don't have the bandwidth and resources anymore. We are having to adapt, but government agencies seem to be going back to pre-pandemic times. Conditions have changed dramatically and resources have dried up. Providers have continued to close their doors. We need DCYF to change and adapt to the new conditions of the world. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you for that feedback. I would love to follow up and discuss this more. • I'm very excited for this department, but we need to have the ability to check back in. Are there ways for us to engage and see if you are meeting the mark of what you said you were going to do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We do have a lot of work to do and we should definitely check back in with you. We have some areas that we are measuring ourselves, but we should come and share them with you and ask; are we measuring and looking at the right things?
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<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).

2023 Workplan

DCYF Community Engagement Interim Deputy Director Erin Kerrigan facilitated a discussion to gather feedback on the 2023 work plan.

- [FSKA TLS Update Tracker Template](#)

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happens to the rest of the items if they don't make it on the workplan?
--------------------------	--



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is a living document and it won't impact the agency continuing to track and respond to each item. If there is something the agency won't move forward with, it will be added to the document with an explanation. ● If a recommendation lands in the NO column, is that just for the workplan we are talking about today or does it mean NO period? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anything on the tracker is the agency's response and status. The tracker does not impact the workplan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If we disagree with the result. What is the appeal avenue? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There will be time at every meeting to review the tracker updates and ask questions. ● When will the collated responses from this survey be shared? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It will be included in the materials for the next meeting. ● Do the work plans run a year or two years? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One year. We are in the middle of transitioning from calendar year to fiscal year so this upcoming work plan is for fiscal year 2024. ● We used to have a list of topics that come up that haven't been completed. Do we have that list so people can weigh in on other topics? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, we have that list and will have time for additions. This is just gathering feedback on the TLS piece.
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please reach out to the Community Engagement Team (dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov) 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"> ● Where does licensing fall into these four groups? Are they in Operating and Provider supports? The new group looks like the professional Early Learning services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Licensing and Early Learning are separate divisions within DCYF. ● Workforce Supports for the unnamed area and Provider Operations for the first team are my suggestions. ● Does the new structure affect current State Training and Registry System (STARS) approved trainers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is no impact to STARS approved trainers. There shouldn't be any impact on any of the services you have been accessing. ● As Early Learning has gone through many changes during COVID. What feedback have providers given you about the new rating system? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We've had a lot of positive feedback. Many providers who have completed the new provider profile appreciate getting feedback from families. More diverse programs feel like they fit in the model and like having the ability to document where they need supports. ○ We've also had good feedback about the video process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I am part of Early Adopters and we have submitted our first round of videos for 14 classrooms. The support is awesome. The feedback from parents is great! ● We've done our profile and it feels much more about just support and helping teachers learn and grow and assessing the quality of your program based off your policies and what you're actually doing in the classroom. I would recommend people go and take a look at it.
--------------------------	---



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We're going through our second rating with Early Achievers and I like the new format but some issues have come up. Most of our staff is new and so they don't have much completed besides the 30-hour training. Our Early Achievers is also requiring we designate a lead teacher before the profiles are complete but staff do not have the time with a full-time job to go to school and it's overwhelming. ● One question that came up for us, is that our coach said we had to hand over parent emails to Early Achievers for that parent survey? That does not seem appropriate to me. Is there a way for us to simply conduct a survey using our own survey tools so that we can keep the privacy of our customer contacts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That is one of the things we have heard. Since we are rolling this out in phases, it is giving us the opportunity to look at data and see what are we learning from participants, what are we hearing, and what are the things that we can do to improve this going forward. As you are participating, please continue to give this feedback and ways that it can improve. ● That model also did not allow for other models, such as Montessori to participate so we are glad that has changed. ● Can we conduct our own survey and provide those responses? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If there is a better way to get that information and if sites want to take that on, then please give us that feedback. We want the most effective way to reach families. ● It's the provider themselves who are contacting the families first to see if they want to participate correct? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, that's correct. ● I did a form in Brightwheel for my families that had the same questions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This would not be a part of the program profile report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I did the separate survey and then added their information into the provider portal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That's a great suggestion. ● How will DCYF use the parent feedback? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The parent feedback goes back to the providers. We can look at themes or community challenges but we haven't dug into that data very deeply. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I understand that the provider will get the feedback? Does DCYF get the feedback too? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes, we can see the aggregate data.
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<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](#)

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are you considering to be the timeframe for your final recommendations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are hoping that by Fall we will have things decided and get the approval from the Office of Childcare. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Looking at budget cycles, we wouldn't have anything until 2025? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes, that's correct. ● I didn't see operating costs on your list, is there a reason why?
--------------------------	---



- That list was just meant to look at the a handful of variables that we still have a range to work through. There are definitely operating costs that still need to be worked out including salaries and all of the things that go into providing high quality care.
- The cost of implementing the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) should also be looked at.
 - There are a number of specific rules, ratios, and other licensing requirements that are built in and the model is taking into consideration.
- When will the department begin to review the block grant application again and is it possible to recruit participants from this group so there is a strong provider voice in the process.
 - The Childcare Development Fund (CCDF) Plan will be submitted summer 2024 and we'll have a Steering Committee that you've been a member of in past cycles and I'd love to include other members too.
- Are we talking about childcare compensation only? How do we make sure the legislature does not get fooled by certain models?
 - The models do vary. We're looking at childcare subsidy reimbursement rates. It's definitely impactful for other programs and we have the responsibility to look at rates in other programs.
- What are any potential supports that can come out of the work DCYF is doing to support creating capacity when you have to expand or change locations? That has to be factored into the cost of care model.
 - I agree and that is a part of our recommendation to look at rates for subsidy to cover those costs including facility costs and to look at those regionally.
 - There are no incentives for us to build more daycares. We're trying to bring in more capacity, but there is no financial support to help providers expand.
- When the state sets their reimbursement rates through legislation, can they look at future inflation increases? I'd be curious to see how much the state has increased rates as inflation has gone up.
 - We have a market rate survey that we complete every three years where we get a baseline. But I agree the increases do tend to happen after market increases so in this process we are trying to anticipate future costs.
- I am always curious about why Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) doesn't cover 100% like Basic Education covers 100% of Transitional Kindergarten.
- In the draft model, was there a space to put in numbers for new classrooms?
 - I'll have to go back and look at the calculator but I don't believe new construction is included. We'll go back and make sure it is incorporated.
 - That will be just the cost of the building, besides that are the cost of furniture, teaching material, and the list is huge.
- Is there an economist on your team?
 - We will have to follow up on this.
- I also noticed there is a bill to reduce the age a child in WA must attend school from eight to six. Will this have an impact on the state Excise Tax given there are current deductions for service given to children under age eight. If that changes along with this bill, that is another economic impact to this industry.
 - The impact of a change like that would feed the model when we survey providers every three years about their costs.

Next Steps/Follow Up

- Please reach out to Matt Judge (matt.judge@dcyf.wa.gov) or Jason Ramynke (jason.ramynke@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow-up questions.



Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2023.
-----------------------------	---