



Early Learning Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2023 – 10:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

ELAC Executive Committee member Enrica Hampton welcomed attendees and walked through virtual meeting protocols. Introductions were completed via chat.

Review of Meeting Materials

Enrica Hampton led the group in reviewing the February 7 meeting minutes, feedback loop, the State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates, and the TLS Tracker Update.

- [February 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Feedback Loop](#)
- [State Agency/Partner Updates](#)
- [Regional Coalition Updates](#)
- [TLS Tracker Update](#)

Discussion	<p><i>Regional Coalition Updates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the current legislative session, Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) requested funding to continue our infrastructure per the preschool development grant. We are in the House budget but not seen in the Senate budget. We are working with our champions and hope to see that come forward in the final budget. • One of the big WCFC wins for the session is House Bill 1199 which has passed both the House and Senate budgets which support both family childcare homes and centers. <p><i>TLS Tracker</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When some of the items say ‘no’, can we ask to identify what those federal requirements say? And is it a federal requirement or interpretation by DCYF? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We can certainly request more context. We will be sure to add as much context as possible to future drafts of the tracker ○ Yes, if it is helpful we can link this additional information. Please note, it is not DCYF’s interpretation, it is the feds’ interpretation of their own rule. We did ask and they said no. • Were any of these answers to the recommendations discussed at ELAC or are all these decisions made internally? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The process so far is that the recommendations were discussed internally at DCYF. These are DCYF’s first responses. There are a number of places where we have more questions and need more details. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ So, this is not the final response? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No not at all; we will be collaborating with both ELAC and Provider Supports. • When it says “follows policy and procedure dictated by Revised Code of Washington (RCW) or Washington Administrative Code (WAC)” in response it might be nice to have the RCW and WAC so that if someone is interested they could look it up. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That’s a great idea. We can add more details and link to the various rules and requirements.
-------------------	--



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding number 11 under Overregulation, do we know what agencies providers were referring to? Do you think Early Achievers was on that? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Recommendations Report states "fire inspectors, local building folks, etc.". It does also speak to misalignments between the Fire Marshall's Office and Early Achievers. ○ DCYF does cite providers for things that are outside of their expertise. Why does DCYF act on the authority even if they're not the experts? It doesn't seem to align. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ That makes sense. The recommendation is that licensors would be able to provide information in writing and not necessarily advice. The written information would come from the other agency with their scope of authority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's calling out what is DCYF's actual scope of authority. If they don't have the authority to inform people about something because it's not their expertise and they're not the ones that have that documentation, then why do they enforce those policies? • Regarding the Licensing Division Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigation process, there is a disconnect between what actual policy is regarding CPS investigations and what actually occurs as procedures in the field. The policy does not match what the process is. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, this topic is on the agenda for tomorrow's Provider Supports meeting.
--	--

Early Learning Needs Assessment

DCYF Preschool Development Grant Administrator Tracie Kenney and Preschool Development Grant Specialist Delta Heiberg provided feedback to determine which topics in the 2020 Statewide Early Learning Needs Assessment are still relevant and hear award details of the 12 proposed projects in the new PDG Planning Grant.

- [Preschool Development Grant Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please find the 2020 statewide needs assessment here and the Executive Summary here. • I'm not sure business support is what is needed most for the child care sector. The problem isn't with the providers, it's with the system. What the sector needs is significant investment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, we agree. We are hoping to learn how to invest and where that money should go. The common theme of this grant is about the workforce. We'll also be looking at what are the missing pieces. We'll also be applying for a renewal grant to look at what we've learned and decide how we want to move forward as a state and where those investments should be. • Who makes up the "we" in the final analysis recommendation decisions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The preschool development grant is a compilation of many subject matter experts including lived experts, childcare providers, advisory groups, and steering committees. I will come back with more details about all the groups supporting these projects.
Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please reach out to Delta Heiberg (delta.heiberg@dcyf.wa.gov) or Tracie Kenney (tracie.kenney@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow-up questions.

OIAA FSKA Evaluation and Data Update

DCYF Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability (OIAA) Program Evaluation Supervisor Karah Lothian, FSKA Senior Evaluator Adassa Budrevich-Ryan, OIAA FSKA Analyst Justin Seppi, and WA STEM Impact Director Min Hwangbo provided data updates on the subsidy uptake dashboard and the FSKA policy objective on access to affordable child care and early learning.



• [OIAA Early Learning Presentation](#)

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are these differences statistically significant? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not, these are just descriptive data for now. • Please find the Estimated Child Care and Early Learning Subsidy Uptake Dashboard here. • Can you talk about the benefit of including this information? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The benefit is showing populations accessing programs more equitably and broadly. • The low percentage of those receiving subsidy compared to the need is alarming. • Is there a way to filter the data in the dashboard? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are looking at creating a different version of the dashboard with a filter option. • I believe we should exclude, it to show a realistic picture of Working Connections Child Care (WCCC). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We can follow up on this. • It seems like being able to choose inclusion might be helpful to some. • In some of this data, is there a way to capture families who may not qualify for working connections but who also can't afford care? That's really where the gap is in terms of affordability and access. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We could add more filter options to focus on groups that don't qualify based on WCCC. In terms of affordability, we do put families in different buckets based on medium income. This dashboard might be a good resource: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does the working requirement include whether or not they are in school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, it does.
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please reach out to Vickie Ybarra (vickie.ybarra@dcyf.wa.gov) or Adassa Budrevich-Ryan (adassa.budrevich-ryan@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow-up questions.

2024 Legislative Session Look Ahead & Government Affairs Budget Update

DCYF Assistant Secretary of Early Learning Nicole Rose and DCYF Government Affairs Advisor Genevieve Stokes provided an update and discussed the landscape and general potential outcomes from the 2024 legislative session, including the Governor's budget.

• [Legislative Session Presentation](#)

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please find the webinar recording for the Mid-Session Update: DCYF Investment Overview here and the slides here. • What is meant by clients and providers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They can be interchangeable in some ways. But we think of providers as providing the service and clients are people receiving the service. • With the operating budget, what is the percentage of what is designated for addressing wage equity for Early Learning providers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The working connections rate increase will impact subsidy providers. • There is some statewide advocacy from Seattle Human Services and Childcare Aware around increasing Human Service sector workforce (including early learning) wages to a living wage. Are you following this and its impact on the early learning sector? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, we are, thank you for flagging this! So much good work going on across regions! • The overarching framework appears to be directed toward families only. How does support for providers fit into the overarching framework? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As we think about this work, we want to think about that child and family at the center and make sure that they have access to the services that they need. And
--------------------------	---



then think about how are we wrapping around and making sure that providers have the resources that they need to support the kids and families who are coming through their door. Specifically, you'll see an increase in an infant rate enhancement, aligning overpayment collection with Federal requirements, and shared services and technical assistance to access funding and resources.

- Are the shared services and Technical Assistance (TA) mentioned administered through the Imagine Institute?
 - That hasn't been determined yet, but they are definitely part of the TA system.
 - This is a consistent theme, when we have a statewide entity like the Imagine Institute, they don't reach out to communities outside of the Puget Sound area. We need to bridge the gaps that exist in funding allocations.
 - Those are good points and good conversations we should be having around what is working and what is not working.
- With TA for providers have you considered partnering with county gov. or city (for larger cities) to have a TA navigator at local levels who have connections and an understanding of local early learning communities and what might be local issues providers are challenged by?
 - This is a great idea. We are doing more to partner with local entities on this and will take this into consideration
 - Through our regional coalition we are implementing a shared services alliance, we have a number of things we are doing to increase access to quality child care. Our mantra is community for community by community. We have the partnerships, we know our communities.
- The first item on the survey is "authorizing full-time care for all children." Is that for all WCCC-eligible children or a proposal to serve every child?
 - It is just for Working Connections.
- Regarding Transitional Kindergarten (TK), it appears the legislation is trying to make kids fit into educational systems rather than thinking about kids as individuals and that educational systems need to be fitting for children. We need to be the ones that are adapting to kids' developmental profiles and holding onto an equity perspective.
 - Thank you for highlighting that. As the legislature is looking at TK, one of the things really being thought about is we are not yet serving all four-year-old children. We are looking at what are the variety of opportunities that exist for those children and families and acknowledge and agree that we want families and children to go to the place that best meets their needs.
- Four-year-olds deserve an age-appropriate curriculum being taught by educators with an Early Childhood Education (ECE) background.
 - The latest version of the TK bill does talk about developmentally appropriate curriculum and professional development opportunities.
 - The problem is that the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is going to develop the standards when the standards already exist within licensed childcare. Because of local control, there is no enforcement mechanism to bring that down to the school district level.
- How does the training of teachers, specifically inclusive models of teachers and setting teachers up to meet the needs of children with inclusive practices, fit into the funding ideas?
 - Within the supplemental session, some of that comes into consideration in the work that we will be doing to look at the cost of quality care. You also see that in the complex needs funding and in partnership with OSPI around the pyramid model.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Special Education/Inclusive models of teaching within the early learning sector that is accessible and affordable to educators. As an early learning educator, we are not all trained in the same way. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One of the budget items is rethinking special needs rates because it is an under-utilized funding tool to meet the needs of children with additional needs in the classrooms. • One challenge is that everything is so interdependent on everything else. Looking at this list and thinking about do you start with what will serve most and is the most expensive or look at smaller populations at a lower cost. It's hard to know where to begin. All these things are important and it's hard to identify where to start. What criteria should guide us around making these decisions around policy and investments? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That is definitely a struggle we go through. There are some things coming in 2025 like the cost of care work but right now we are dealing with limited funding. We know there are bigger things on the horizon so we need to focus on what we really feel can't wait for one more year and is it in line with what we're already doing. • Please find the 2023-2025 Making Child Care Work for Families Decision Package here. • Please find the 2023-2025 Preparing for ECEAP Entitlement Decision Package here. • Please find the 2023-2025 Supporting Providers to Increase Child Care Access Decision Package here. • Stabilization funds for providers is missing from the list.
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please reach out to Nicole Rose (nicole.rose@dcyf.wa.gov) or Genevieve Stokes (genevieve.stokes@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow-up questions.

Closing Remarks/Adjourn

<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next ELAC Executive Session/Report Development will be on May 9, 2023 • The next ELAC Public Meeting will be on June 6, 2023
------------------------------------	---

Members in Attendance: Alexandra Martin-Truesdell, April Shiosaki, Astrid Newell, Claudette Lindquist, Colleen Condon, Debbie Carlsen, Debbie Ham, Deeann Puffert, Enrica Hampton, Gary Burris, Heidi Scott, Isis Lara Fernandez, Kathy Carman, Nancy Spurgeon, Nucha Isarowong, Samantha Masters, Shereese Rhodes

Members Absent:

Aida Rodriguez, Carlina Brown-Banks, Catherine Duffy, Christianna Clinton, Deborah Sioux Lee, Gray Sterling, Jasmin Schmidt, Kathy Goebel, Kathy Yasi, Kelsey Alger, Kimberly Hoover, Lois Martin, Luz Gomez, Nigel Lawrence, Olivia Burley, Representative Bob McCaslin, Representative Lisa Callan, Ryan Guzman, Samantha Bowen, Senator Claire Wilson, Sheryl Fryberg, Susan Yang, Valisa Smith, Valerie Arnold