



Washington State Department of
Early Learning

Standards Alignment Advisory Committee

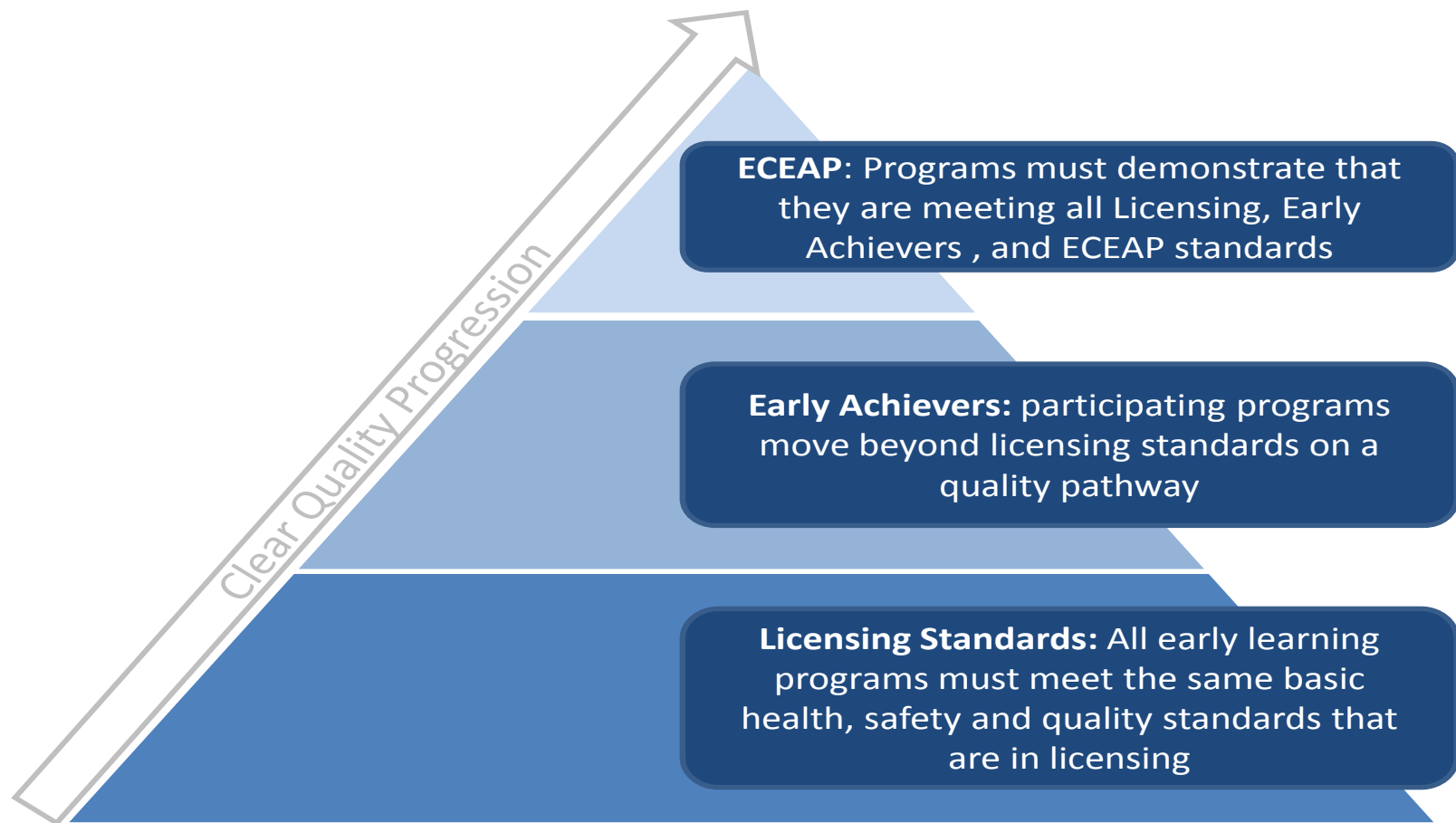
May 13, 2016



Agenda

- Welcome, Harriet Dichter
- Group size, ratios and mixed age grouping, Valisa Smith
- Children Alliance Racial Equity Analysis Framework, Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer
- Organizing Advisory Committee Group Review, Harriet Dichter
- Updates, Luba Bezborodnikova
 - Community Feedback
 - WAC Reviews
 - Weighted WAC
- Summary & Next Steps, Harriet Dichter

DEL has embarked on the standards alignment process to create one set of standards across all of their programs that demonstrate a clear progression of quality from licensing, to Early Achievers and through to ECEAP.



Ratios, Group Size

Introduced to the Advisory Committee 4/13/2016

Current WAC requirement		Proposed WAC	Proposed EA	CFOCB	
0 - 11 mos	Ratio 1:4	1:4 (8 max)	Allow 1:3 (9 max)	≤ 12 mos	1:4
12 - 29 mos	1:7 (14 max)	1:7 (14 max) (>50% must be 18 months or older)	Allow 1:5 (15 max)	13-23 mos	1:4
				24 – 35 mos	1:4 – 1:6
30 - K (preschool)	1:10 (20 max)	1:10 (20 max) (>50% must be 48 months or older)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:8 (16 max) if >50% are 36-47 months) 1:10 (20 max) if >50% are 48 months or older 	3-year-olds	1:9
				4- to 5-year-olds	1:10
5 - 12 years	1:15 (30 max)	1:15 (30 max)		-	-
ECEAP	1:10	1:8 (16 max)	1:8 (16 max)	-	-

Ratios and Group Size

Advisory Committee Feedback

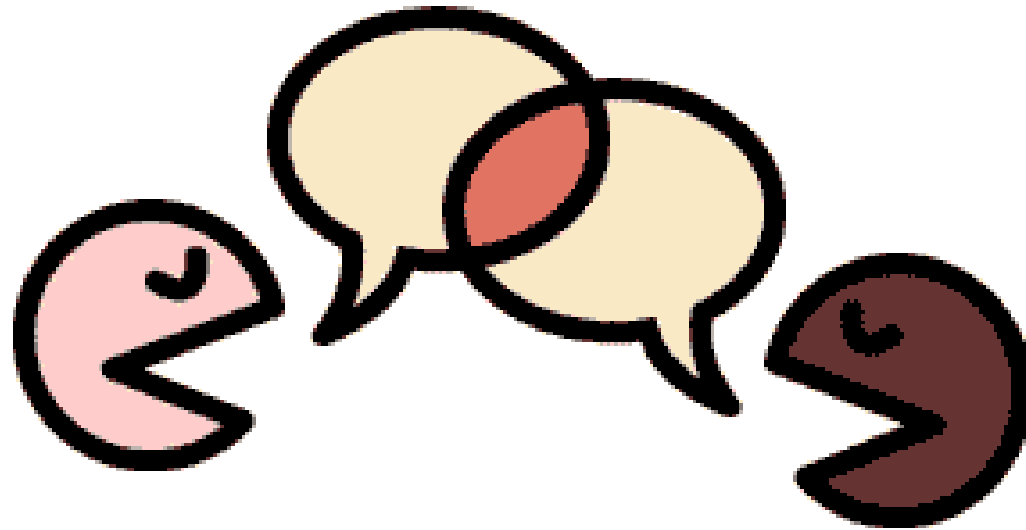
Significant Implications to:

- State infrastructure
- Available space
- Number of providers
- Providers financial and business structures
- Staffing models
- Workforce
- Accessibility of services, especially 0-3
- Child care capacity
- Ability to afford services

Ratios and Group Size - Recommendation

Regulation/Requirement	Age Group	Group Size (max)	Ratio
WAC NO CHANGE	0 - 11 mos	8	1:4
	12 -29 mos	14	1:7
	30 - K	20	1:10
Early Achievers ALLOW CHANGES IN GROUP SIZE; NOT REQUIRED	0 - 11 mos	8	1:4
		Allow 9	1:3
	12 -29 mos	14	1:7
		Allow 15	1:5
	30 - K	20	1:10
	30 – K, Montessori accreditation	Allow up to 26	1:9
ECEAP NO CHANGE	3-4 y.o.	20	1:10

Questions & Suggestions



Group Size and Mixed-Age Grouping

Option 3 - Progression from Early Achievers Level 3

	Age Groups	Group Size	Ratio	Capacity
With Infants	0-11 mos with 12-29 mos	8	1:4	Max 2 not walking independently children
		9	1:3	Max 3 not walking independently children
	0-11 mos with 12-29 mos with 30-36 mos	8	1:4	Max 2 not walking independently children
		9	1:3	Max 3 not walking independently children
No Infants	12-29 mos with 30-36 mos	14	1:7	Max of 4 children younger than 18 months
		12	1:6	Max 5 children younger than 18
		8	1:4	Any combination
	30-K with 5 y.o. enrolled in K	20	1:10	Max 9 children younger than 48 months
		18	1:9	Max 8 children younger than 48 months

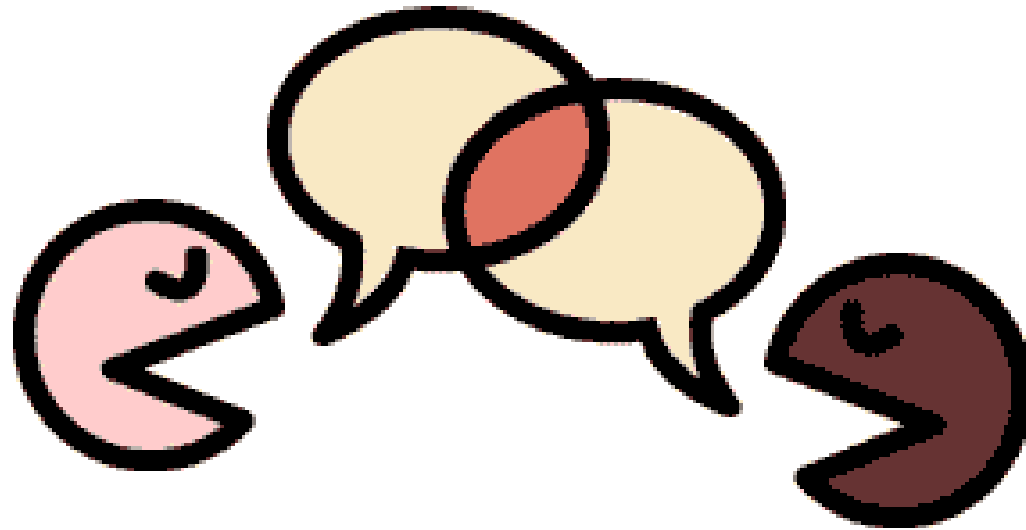
Group Size and Mixed-Age Grouping

Option 3 - Progression from Early Achievers Level 3: *build mixed-age groups into the progression so that programs that attain a Level 3 or higher would be able to use mixed-age groups.*

Considerations:

- Keep current WAC requirements – allowing 1:3/9 for infant care
- Space must meet the WACs for youngest children, re: mixed age group with infants
- Should support models such as EHS-CCP and Montessori
- Licensing monitoring must consider level 3-5 providers - mixed age grouping
- Edit exception WAC and include language for Early Achievers

Questions & Suggestions



Children Alliance

Racial Equity Analysis Framework

Implementation advocacy now is essential to ensure that the new standards support increased access to high quality early learning opportunities for all children from birth to age five and specifically support increased access to culturally and linguistically responsive early learning opportunities for children who are furthest from opportunity. In order to accomplish this, the new standards must:

- Be designed with intentional focus on impacts to culturally diverse and low-income communities; and
- Promote cultural and linguistic diversity as child and family assets to be honored and encouraged.

In order to reach the objectives listed above, Children's Alliance is seeking a contractor to provide the following deliverables:

- Coordinate and execute the development of detailed written comment on the new draft standards based upon a clearly articulated racial equity analysis framework. It is expected that the contractor will consult with key partners in the development of the comments. Partner contact info will be provided by Children's Alliance staff.

Advisory Committee Group Review

Purpose of Advisory Committee Group Review: To achieve a common understanding of the status of the revised, aligned standards (licensing, Early Achievers and ECEAP)

Several options to discuss– how would the Advisory Committee like to participate?

Option 1: Face to Face- All Together

In-person meeting organized by the key categories for alignment, with key DEL staff leading the review in partnership with a lead person from the Advisory Committee who would volunteer for this role. Framework would be provided and guiding questions for the review would be prepared by DEL.

Pros: allows in-person exchange and discussion; engages Advisory Committee members as leaders

Cons: difficult for everyone to come together in one place since Committee has statewide representation

Option 2: Face to Face- By Region

Same as above but break out Advisory Committee into regional groups to allow regional meeting process

Pros: allows in-person exchange and discussion; engages Advisory Committee members as leaders

Cons: may create some fragmentation by having regional meeting

Option 3: All Together Via Webinar

Same as above but conduct the review via webinar/telephone.

Pros: engages Advisory Committee members as leaders; most time efficient

Cons: more challenging environment for exchange and dialogue

Community Feedback, Update

review the standards changes by using racial equity, cultural humility and inclusion lens

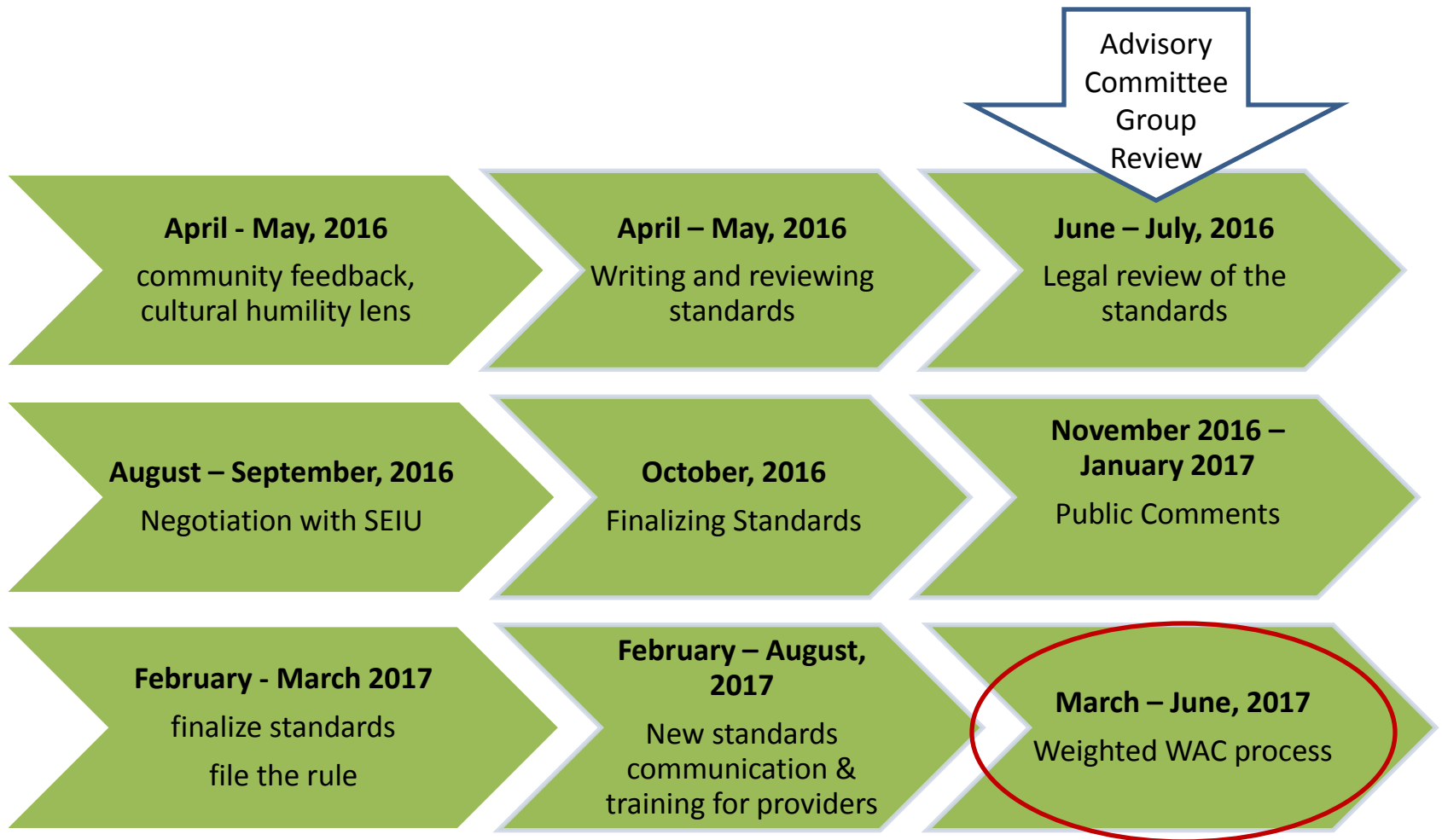
- RELCs and Thrive are leading the work
- 13 meetings are completed
- 5 meeting scheduled 5/7 – 5/18
- SW is planning to have additional meeting date
- Community Feedback Portal will be open after 5/18
- Thrive and DEL will review data and develop report

Standards Writing

WAC Reviews

- 1st content review is completed
- DEL group review will take place 5/18-20. Harriet is visiting Seattle/Olympia to lead it.
- Legal review (Ross, Saul, and AAGs) will start June 13 and will take 4-5 weeks (July 23)
- SEIU Negotiation - projected August – September
- Final Review - October

Standards Alignment, Updated Timeline



Weighted WAC

- Licensing rules represent foundational level of protection for children.
- Every licensing regulation is designed to provide some level of protection to children
- Not all regulations—if violated—present the same level of risk to children

Current Monitoring Process

- Licensing decisions are based on a compliance history which includes the number, seriousness, and frequency of standard deficiencies.
- The relative risk of each deficiency is often considered on a case-by-case basis, with no formal recognition of which deficiencies present the greatest risk to children.

Weighted WAC

When all standards are essentially treated equally, without a common regard toward risk -

- Enforcement decisions may be inconsistent,
- Enforcement actions may not always be timely, and
- Providers and consumers have no clear message about how standards protect children.

Weighting WACs

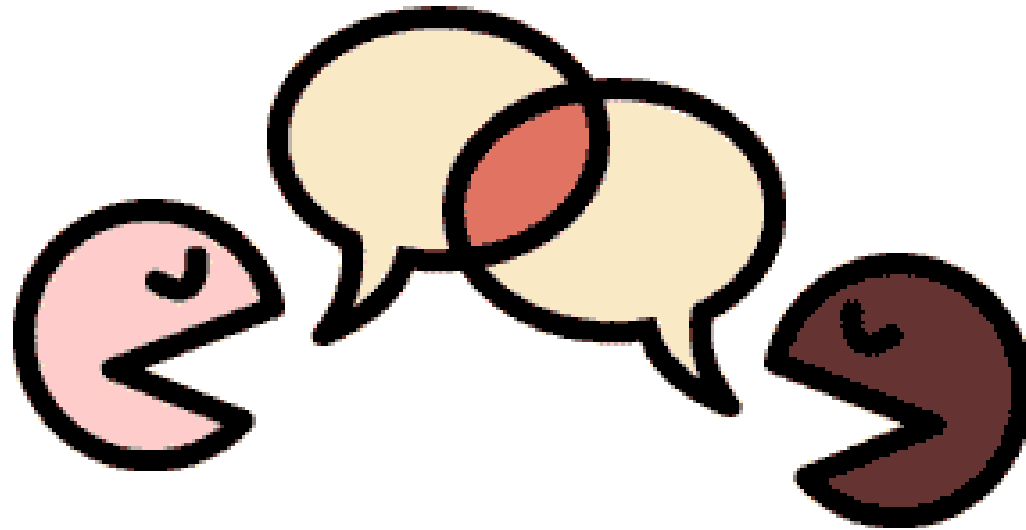
- Assigning initial weights to all standards
- Determining which standards present a significant risk to children when violated.

Weighted WAC

Will:

- Increase provider and consumer understanding of risk
- Establish a common understanding of risk
- Provide objective information to providers, families, stakeholders and communities
- Help identify and address trends, disparities and risk to children more effectively and efficiently
- Support consistency of actions taken for similar compliance history
- Focus Licensing resources
- Reduce variance in decision-making
- Facilitate taking the right licensing action at the right time
- Clarify the connection between deficiencies and the consequences, and
- Provide the greatest level of protection for children

Questions & Suggestions



Summary & Next Steps

- Finalize PD standards (qualification and training), June
- Review PD training WAC with Advisory Committee, June
- Organize Advisory Committee Group Review, July
- Community Feedback Report, end of June

Final Comments

