

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
K-20 Sites/Capital Event Center, Tumwater

Welcome & Check-in

- ELAC Co-Chair, Lois Martin welcomed attendees and asked each K-20 meeting site for introductions.
- The [December 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes](#) were approved as presented.

Feedback Loop

Evette Jasper, DEL's State/Local Coordination Administrator reviewed the [Feedback Loop](#), one of the information sharing tools of the [two-way communication protocol](#).

- [DEL Organization Chart](#)
- [Early Start Act Update](#)
- [Early Achievers ESA Engagement Update](#)
- [ELAC Racial Equity Implementation Plan](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DEL Organization chart sent out in the materials email was incorrect. A corrected version of the organization chart will be sent out in a follow-up email and included in the minutes. • The comment period for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan is extended to Friday, February 5th. • DEL is exploring the use of the Zero to Three self-assessment tool to get a sense of our state's progress toward building a strong system that supports the success of infants, toddlers and their families. • In the future, we will ask members of each subcommittee to report updates from their group at ELAC meetings. • ELAC voted to adopt the Racial Equity Implementation Plan. • ELAC voted to create a standing Racial Equity Work Group.
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2016 ELAC Work Plan

Deanna Stewart, DEL's State/Local Coordination Program Manager and Enrica Hampton, Regional Advisor provided an update on the draft 2016 Work Plan and initiated a small group activity.

- [2016 ELAC Work Plan](#)
- [Small Group Discussion Question Responses](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each site had an opportunity to have small group conversations about the work plan questions and then share back with the full group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What challenges might DEL face in reaching the 90% school readiness goal, and how might we meet them? ○ What do you feel is missing from the 2016 Work Plan that would address the 90% school readiness goal? ○ Questions that arose from those conversations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is compensation referring to in the work plan? Is it compensation for child care or for professional development? Both of these issues are being addressed by the Professional Development Work Group and will be included in the report due in April. ▪ When we say 90% kindergarten readiness, does that mean in all six domains of WaKIDS (Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills)? Yes. ▪ What supports are we going to put in place for the 50-60% of kids who are not in formal settings? • Heather Moss, DEL Deputy Director, responded to some of the questions about the 90% school readiness goal. The goal is aggressive and monumental. DEL does not yet have a structured plan in place, but will be requesting input from ELAC to help develop that plan. DEL is currently thinking about how to
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	<p>begin to make the 90% goal attainable, and take into account the children we do not yet reach. DEL will develop a new agency strategic plan for the 2017/2019 biennial budget request, and this goal will be integrated in that plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that the work plan is a living document, it will need to change throughout the year as new issues come up. ELAC voted to approve giving the Executive Committee authority to make adjustments to the ELAC Work Plan based on ELAC's input, with the understanding that the Executive Committee would communicate those changes through the Feedback Loop. ELAC voted to adopt the 2016 Work Plan, with the assumption that the Executive Committee will work to incorporate ELAC's feedback from the day's discussion and throughout the year.
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Early Achievers 2.0

Nicole Rose, DEL's Quality Improvement and Professional Growth Assistant Director provided an overview on the Engagement Protocol and introduced a small group activity addressing questions about the barriers related to different phases of participation in Early Achievers.

- [Engagement Protocol Activity Slides](#)
- [Small Group Discussion Question Responses](#)

Q&A on State Agency/Partner, Regional Coalition Updates

- [State Agency/Partner Updates](#)
- [Regional Coalition Updates](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greg Williamson, DEL's Assistant Director of Partnerships and Collaboration, shared that the Tribal Liaison has been hired and will start in late February. Bob Butts, OSPI's Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, shared that a lot of work is being done to address the issue of teacher supply for kindergarten. OSPI conducted a survey of school principals to understand their struggle to hire teacher and is working with Thrive Washington on a similar survey for early learning. Contact Bob at Bob.Butts@k12.wa.us with suggestions for the survey.
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2016 Legislative Session & Policy Update

Frank Ordway, DEL's Assistant Director of Communications and Government Relations shared an overview of the 2016 Legislative Session.

- [Small Group Discussion Question Responses](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a short session so there won't be big budget questions. It looks like session will be done on time without additional special sessions. Friday is the policy cutoff, bills must be out of their first committees by Friday, February 5, and voted off the floor by Friday, February 12. Higher Education: DEL is tracking community college tuition bills because of the tie to professional development for Early Learning educators. We are not anticipating they are going to pass this session but we will keep an eye out in future sessions. K-12: There are bills seeking to improve assessments, and many bills on the opportunity and achievement gap. Many of these bills have large price tags so while they may not pass, they will be important conversations to frame the discussion going forward. There are bills about charter school regulations and conversations to address the teacher shortage, through compensation for example. We are watching that because it relates to early learning because of our own recruitment and retention challenges. There are great divisions in approaches and bills relating to McCleary. The courts will likely weigh in if the legislature does not have concrete plans to address their concerns by the end of session. Facilities: There is recognition that there is a profound issue around facilities; it is a shared concern with Early Learning and K-12. ELAC member, Representative Tom Dent shared a brief update on the legislative session. He was recently appointed assistant ranking member of the House Early Learning Committee. Policy Review: DEL wants to approach policy development with more consideration about implementation, especially for policies that will have high impact on the community. DEL is considering ways to fulfil the legal requirements and also communicate the information in a way that works for implementers.
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Preschool/ECEAP Mixed Delivery System

Nicole Rose and Regional Advisor Jodi Wall presented on the Preschool/ECEAP Mixed Delivery System and asked a few questions initiated a small group activity.

- [ECEAP Pilot One Pager](#)
- [Small Group Discussion Question Responses](#)

Discussion	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Achievers Standards Evaluation Study Overview:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Preliminary results show that we are heading in the right direction.○ Preliminary analysis suggests:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Children make gains in the expected direction across most domains in a relatively short amount of time.▪ Teacher talk (words spoken per hour) is related to children’s early science learning.▪ More analysis is needed on CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System), ERS (Environmental Rating Scale) and the Early Achievers standards as they relate to child outcomes.○ Information gleaned from this study will allow us to make important decisions about future iterations of the Early Achievers rating process.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ As we find standards or measures that do not yield desired child outcomes, we may no longer collect data on these nor require the standards to be met.▪ Our goal is to have a set of standards that are easier for providers to focus on in the near future (Early Achievers 2.0)○ Over the next couple of months UW will do further analysis to hone in on the most predictive measures in Early Achievers.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ This allows us to finely tune the next iteration of our quality rating and improvement system.▪ DEL expects to have all analysis from UW in March, with briefs on certain topics at intermittent points between now and then.○ We are committed to getting this right for children, families and early learning professionals.○ If you are interested in the draft report, please contact Nicole Rose (Nicole.Rose@del.wa.gov). She will email you a copy of the draft report as well as the list of caveats.○ The data in the study is tracking kids in Early Achievers sites. There are some that are ECEAP, some that are Head Start, and some that are neither ECEAP nor Head Start.○ A facilities report will be available in August with information regarding capacity and renovation, and some financing recommendations.○ There was a question about being able to see rating data in WELS (Web-based Early Learning System). If ECEAP coaches are assigned contractor level rather than site level, they can see all of the data in WELS. DEL is working with our partners to make sure everyone knows how to use the system.• Jodi Wall presented an overview of the pilot project and next steps that are scheduled through June.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The resources developed through the ECEAP Pilot Program will be shared to help develop capacity across the state.○ Educational Service District 112 and Community Minded Enterprises are working with Child Care Aware of Washington and a statewide advisory committee to inform the process on reporting what we’re learning and recommendations to take to DEL on the next steps.○ They have drafted training curricula comprised of 8 modules of about 2 hours in length. Reviewers around the state are providing input on the curricula.○ They have developed a technical assistance/coaching framework—training one week and coaching/individualized support the next.○ Next steps include recruiting child care providers in both regions. They are looking for 5-7 providers who are a mix of centers and homes from each region.○ Training/coaching will begin soon and finish in April, and will include pre- and post- evaluation surveys.○ The pilot seeks to learn about what worked well with training and coaching but also what questions still remain for providers.○ There was a question to Lee Williams about the consortium model being developed with Community Minded Coalition. Lee described the model as having a non-profit or LLC lead entity, with child care partners recruited in to provide the service. They are engaged in community outreach efforts to recruit existing providers in the community. They will be learning from participants what they need and documenting the process including outreach, communications,

	and the response they are getting back. They are partnering with Thrive Washington to identify community partners.
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Meeting Follow-up, Closing Remarks & Adjourn

Follow-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a conflict with the August ELAC meeting date and the 2016 Starting Strong Institute; the ELAC meeting will be rescheduled soon.• The next ELAC meeting is April 5, 2016 in Thurston County. Please watch for an email about the location of that meeting.
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ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Butts
Representative Tom Dent
Peter Finch
Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer
Nigel Lawrence
Lois Martin
Anne Messerly
Maria Nardella
Jennifer Ross

REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) IN ATTENDANCE

Susan Barbeau
Yolanda Esquivel
Enrica Hampton
Amy Kocher
Wilanne Ollila-Perry
Nancy Spurgeon
Tiffany Stutesman
Sandra Szambelan
Jodi Wall
Jane Partridge for Dan Teuteberg

ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Bianca Bailey
Senator Annette Cleveland
RaShelle Davis
Kathy Goebel
Dee Hirsch
Ross Hunter
Caitlin Jensen
Senator Mark Miloscia
Representative Tana Senn
Laurie Thomas
Karla Weeks
Sam Whiting