



Washington State Department of  
**Early Learning**

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting  
April 7th 2015

## Regional Coalition Updates

### Regional Coalition Update

#### First 5 FUNDamentals of Pierce County

For more information please contact: Susan Barbeau, Executive Director [Susanb@uwpc.org](mailto:Susanb@uwpc.org)

- In the months of February and March, F5F has been on the road meeting with the early learning leads at school districts throughout Pierce County. We've met with 10 of the 15 districts so far, and hope to conduct the remaining meetings by the end of May. These visits are part of our WaKIDS scope of work, and are an opportunity to hear from school districts about their experiences with data, family engagement, and early learning collaborations. Common themes were shared at the April coalition meeting.
- In February, F5F hosted a home visiting provider meeting. In 2015, these meetings will be held every other month and focus on increased communication and coordination across programs, as well as offering shared professional development. At the February meeting, the Children's Administration presented about implementation of the Family Assessment Response (FAR) system. The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, where we'll hear from the Washington Association of Infant Mental Health on the mental health endorsement.

#### Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast

For more information please contact: Sandra Szambelan, [SSzambelan@esd101.net](mailto:SSzambelan@esd101.net)

- The Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance is piloting the Kindergarten Transition form with the child care providers and working closely with Child Care Aware to orient and train both the provider and EA coaches on how to use the form and the process for delivering to kindergarten teachers.
- Alliance members attended the ECEAP expansion Town Hall meeting in Spokane and are coordinating efforts around service delivery and potential expansion plans.
- The annual Our Kids Our Business celebration will be held in cooperation with Greater Spokane Inc. on April 1, 2015.

#### Investing in Children: Coalition Central

For more information please contact: Karri Jo Livingston, 509-895-6439

- At our February meeting our county health partners gave us updates on the health data/trends in Yakima and Kittitas Counties. Our coalition is interested in reinventing our Wellness Committee based on the needs of our community. Previously, the Wellness Committee focused on social-emotional health and developmental screenings. A survey will soon be sent to our coalition members to assess where the Wellness Committee should focus their work.

#### North Central

- **No updates at this time.**

## Regional Coalition Update

### Northwest

**For more information please contact: Wilanne Ollila-Perry, [wilanne\\_ollila-perry@oppco.org](mailto:wilanne_ollila-perry@oppco.org)**

Northwest Early Learning continues with our established 2015 annual priorities.

- Launching the 5<sup>th</sup> year of NW “5 county” Regions 2014-15 Prek-K Transition forms process. Forms are currently being disseminated for completion by PreK child care providers, school district prek, ECEAP/HeadStart and license exempt preschool teachers who have participated in our school district/prek partnership parallel professional development DMA Literacy Cohorts.
- Annual PreK-K Dinner and Dialogue events being confirmed in each community bringing school district and prek partners together to discuss the transition documents and celebrate another year of working toward a seamless transition to K for all children.
- Three of the five county early learning coalitions have co-sponsored with the regional coalition a Data Carousel - identifying their root cause(s) and developing their theory of action.
- Membership identified Wilanne to serve as our Advocacy Lead this 2015 year.
- The Data Team is planning for our next publication (14-15) of The State of Children and Families in the NW Region.

### Olympic-Kitsap Peninsulas

- **No updates at this time.**

### SOAR, King County

**For more information please contact: Harla Tumbleson, [Harla@childrenandyouth.org](mailto:Harla@childrenandyouth.org)**

- Tim Schuringa will be stepping down from his position as Director of SOAR at the end of March to take a position with Seattle Public Schools. Harla Tumbleson, SOAR’s former Director, will be serving as Interim Director for the next 6 months while the SOAR Partnership Council and School’s Out Washington (SOAR’s fiscal sponsor) refine SOAR’s strategic direction and identify a new Director. Tim is working closely with SOAR leadership and the interim director to ensure the smoothest possible transition.

### Southeast

**For more information please contact: Samantha Bowen, 509-524-5142**

- Walla Walla is hosting *Raising of America* events (2) on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup> (documentary screening, panel discussions, book distribution); collaborative, multi-agency.
- The 2015 Early Learning Dinner & Dialogue in Walla Walla is being planned. The tentative event date is April 28th – 2015 Theme: Play-Based/Project-Based Learning; collaborative, multi-agency.
- The Walla Walla Children’s Forum - 2015 Theme: Hope in the Face of Poverty (the effects of poverty on children and what we can do about it); screening the *Rich Hill* documentary and offering a workshop on “Communication in the Culture of Poverty” (Amy Yardley); collaborative, multi-agency.
- We are in the process of developing a logo for the Southeast regional coalition as well as a website for both internal and external audiences.
- Dan Torres will be attending a spring meeting to discuss racial equity with our coalition members and how we can effectively work together to move that discussion/work along through the local coalitions.
- We now have 3 active local coalitions who feed into our overall regional coalition – this year’s

### **Regional Coalition Update**

WaKIDS steering committee work will be able to be steered at the local level this year based on local needs.

- The Asotin County Dinner and Dialogue event was held on March 12 (see notes above).
- The Benton Franklin Dinner and Dialogue is actively being planned.
- The Benton Franklin Coalition is in the middle of planning an early learning conference targeting providers in November.
- In Benton Franklin counties, we are piloting ready for kindergarten activities for parents.
- Walla Walla coalition is hosting Amy Yardley on April 16 for home visitors with the training topic “Communicating within the Culture of Poverty”. We will also be hosting her with that topic this summer in BF counties for home visitors.

### **Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)**

**For more information please contact: Lindsay Newcomer, [lindsay.newcomer@selfwa.org](mailto:lindsay.newcomer@selfwa.org)**

- We are currently in the process of planning a training event with REACH center. The event will focus on how to best address the opportunity gap in our region as well as expanding the diversity of our coalition.
- Our WaKIDS steering committee opened the application process for mini grants that will be awarded throughout the region. The mini grants are for up to \$500 each and the goal is to increase and deepen early learning collaboration at a more local level.

### **Visions for Early Learning, West Central**

- **No updates at this time.**