



Washington State Department of
Early Learning

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting
April 8, 2013 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm - Lacey Community Center

State Agency and Partner Updates

Department of Early Learning

▪ Budget Update

- ECEAP expansion was funded by Governor Inslee at \$35M, or approximately 3,000 new slots in 2013-15, plus funding for professional development and higher number of intensive onsite reviews

▪ Legislative Update

- [House Bill 1723](#) (concerning early learning opportunities) continues to move, as do the bills relating to child care reform ([HB 1671](#) and [SB 5595](#)).
- There are also bills still alive relating to school-age care; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in early learning; family home child care and WaKIDS. Find out more about their status on the [DEL Legislative Updates](#) page.

Department of Health & Social Services (DSHS)

▪ Community Services Division (CSD) Update:

- Our telephone and paperwork volumes are under control with the average wait time for callers being around 2 minutes and our paperwork worked within an average of 3 days after receipt.
- The Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) Team has filled most of its vacancies and is in process of training new staff. We have 4 classes of new trainees scheduled in April & May
- We will begin training WorkFirst case managers in basic childcare eligibility in May, which will allow them to expedite the childcare application or change process for their clients who need it to participate in looking for or accepting work
- In early May, families with school-aged children will receive a mailer and special release form encouraging those who already know their summer care plans to report the change early. This will help prevent the concentration of parents having to call in their changes at the end of May/early June and the resulting phone and paperwork backlogs that have been the pattern in the last few years. A similar process will be used in August for back-to-school changes.
- We are beginning planning to expand walk-in application services at select Community Service Offices in the state. Specific locations have not been selected yet, but will be in those areas where we have CCSP staff already working on site.
- We conducted a day of training in conjunction with DEL staff for approximately 150 CSD staff. Two more sessions are planned to allow 100% of CCSP staff to attend this training. The training focused on the importance of quality childcare in early learning, the role of CSD staff in helping parent access quality care, and enhanced policy training on CCSP eligibility rules and procedures

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

- **Full-day Kindergarten:**
 - Exploring options for school districts to reallocate funds that are currently being used for locally funded full-day K to be used in other early learning areas
 - Full-day K Symposium August 5 before Starting Strong Conference
 - Exploring possibility of a statewide Professional Learning Community next school year on full-day K programs
- **ESD/State-level Early Learning Partnership 2013-14 Priorities:**
 - Continue our efforts to build a statewide ESD-based Early Learning System
 - Implement WAKIDS
 - Provide support to school districts in the successful implementation of full-day kindergarten
 - Provide instructional support for K-3 teachers and Early Learning providers in:
 - Mathematics
 - Literacy/writing
- **Ready and Successful Schools Workgroup**
 - Last Planning Meeting: April 26
 - **Draft Actions:** See Attached “*Ready and Successful School Draft Actions*” document

Department of Health (DOH)

- DOH along with the support of partners is busy writing the application for the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant. There are 3 focus areas to choose from:
 - Mitigation of toxic stress and trauma in infancy and early childhood.
 - Coordination of the expansion of developmental screening activities in early care and education settings, statewide.
 - Improvement of state infant/toddler child care quality initiatives (QRIS) by incorporating 10 or more of the Caring for Our Children National Performance Standards focused specially on the infant/toddler age group.

With partner input, we choose universal developmental screening as our focus area. This grant requires extensive collaboration and the application is due to HRSA by April 26, 2013.

- We are funding 4 Tribal and 4 non-Tribal community health clinics to improve their breastfeeding support work for new moms. Four of the clinics are in Eastern Washington.
- The Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) program is working with the UW to create an on-line, free, STARS accredited training nutrition module based on Let’s Move Childcare. This is in pilot stage, but will soon be posted on the MERIT/STARS site and available for use by providers. UW is also creating a module to help early learning providers create healthy menus. We hope to create modules for physical activity and infant feeding in the future.
- The HEAL program through UW is working on an online Media Aware Child Care module and the Washington Active Bodies Active Minds (WAABAM) website for child care providers to reduce screen time in childcare. We hope to have the module STARS approved and offer it free to providers. www.waabam.org
- Tribal health staff and their steering committee reported that Native American women often feel uncomfortable speaking up and posing questions to their providers. This creates a barrier to information about flu and other vaccination for pregnant women. We are developing cards with questions for Tribal women to give their doctors to help facilitate communication.

Thrive by Five Washington (Thrive)

- **Love.Talk.Play:** We will be doing a spring campaign to raise general awareness. We will highlight LTP work and events happening in the 10 Early Learning Regional Coalitions.

Some highlights include: a 30 minute interview about the campaign that will be on Clear Channel Radio on Sunday, May 5; a four page insert in Parent Map's annual Baby Map issue in May; a combination of earned and paid media throughout the state and a Facebook contest.

- **Home Visiting (HV):** Staff have been conducting site visits with grantees from around the state and analyzing reports from our 44 grantees. We are also carefully watching sequestration to see what impact it will have on HV.
- **Community Momentum (CM):** Our staff have been planning the next statewide meeting of the Early Learning Regional Coalitions. We continue to support the coalitions as they implement the funding that they recently received through the CM process. We are watching and thinking about the state/local advisory group recommendations and how to best implement whatever recommendations are adopted.
- **Advancing Racial Equity:** Internally, we are looking across all of our work with a racial equity lens. We are finalizing the Racial Equity Theory of Change and moving into phase 2 which will be about implementation.
- **Grants Management:** We are continuing to refine and develop our processes for granting funding in all of our work and continuing to look at ways we can meaningfully report data.
- **Thrive Move:** Thrive will be moving its offices in mid-May. Stay tuned for more details. We are hoping to move just down the street!