

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Capital Event Center

Welcome & Introductions

- Nelly Mbajah and Bianca Bailey, ELAC Co-Chairs welcomed all attendees and asked for introductions.
- The [August 18, 2014 meeting minutes](#) were approved.
- The [feedback loop form](#), one of the information sharing tools of the [Two-Way Communication Protocol](#), was reintroduced and reviewed.

Appreciative Inquiry

- Greg Williamson, DEL Assistant Director of Partnerships and Collaboration led an [appreciative inquiry group activity](#).

Discussion	<p>The group provided a few highlights from their activity on their meeting reflection sheets. <i>Recall a past experience with ELAC or another group where you felt valued. What happened, how did the experience impact you and the group? :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few things were changed immediately after receiving the group's comments. We felt heard. • Felt appreciated and heard when real lived experiences helped inform policy change. • Small group discussions from previous meetings helped inform agency decisions.
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State Agency, Partner and Regional Coalition Updates

- [State Agency/Partner Updates](#)
- [DEL 15% Budget Cut Exercise](#)
- [Early Learning Regional Coalition Updates](#)

Discussion	<p>DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING (DEL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bette Hyde highlighted key points from DEL's updates, including DEL's Strategic Plan, the Strengthening Families Washington grants and Governor Jay Inslee's Healthiest Next Generation Initiative recommendations. • Amy Blondin provided an update on DEL's 2015-17 budget requests, which includes the 15 percent reduction scenario submitted to the Governor. All state agency decision packages are posted online at http://ofm.wa.gov/budget/decisionpackages/1517/default.asp. <p>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Timmen mentioned that the DOH website will keep up to date information on Ebola. <p>OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OSPI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Butts included that OSPI also submitted budget requests, which includes the amount to fully fund basic education as part of the McCleary decision.
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Filming Interactions to Nurture Development (FIND)

- Juliet Morrison, DEL’s Assistant Director of Quality Practice and Professional Growth provided an update on the [Infant/Toddler Consultation Integration with Early Achievers and a presentation on FIND](#).

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can interested partners in local communities contact DEL to request presentations to learn more about FIND? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A portable training is being developed in Oregon, so the Infant/Toddler regional leads have all the language on FIND, so presentations in local communities won’t be available for a few more months. • What are the costs associated with FIND and video editing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The costs are relatively inexpensive, especially since DEL is already partnering with the Oregon Social Learning Center through the Frontiers of Innovation work. There are some upfront technology costs, but that will be at no cost to the regions or consultants. • Will there be specific measurements to determine whether the intervention is successful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, however DEL is currently working with Phil Fisher at the Oregon Social Learning Center to develop a measurement. DEL will update ELAC once we know with a timeline. • Will families be able to opt out of the filming? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Absolutely, consultations are a voluntary intervention for providers. No filming will happen without explicit parental consent. • Will the films be translated and edited into other languages? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Right now there are only English and Spanish materials and editing capacity, but we will include more languages and learn about the applicability. • Are you including participation in consultation as part of rating points in Early Achievers to encourage more participation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilities are more open to having people at their centers and homes, and hopefully the strength-based focus will help. DEL will keep this idea in mind when looking at the Early Achievers standards revision. • Which region will pilot FIND first, and then in what order will the other regions roll it out? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Northwest is the first region to pilot FIND, and we have not yet identified the order in which the remaining regions will implement. Until then regions are continuing their current model for providing consultation, except with a different referral process.
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEL will schedule a phone call with the Infant/Toddler regions to address specific questions. • DEL will report back to ELAC on the Infant/Toddler consultation evaluation plan. • E-mail elac@del.wa.gov or put on reflection sheet what else is important about Infant & toddler consultation (outside FIND & infant mental health) and about comprehensive health more broadly.

LUNCH & Reflection on Leading for Equity

- The Council discussed how they will lead for equity as a result of their experience during the Leading for Equity Seminar on September 25 – 26, 2014.
 - [Leading for Equity Seminar PPT](#)

Family Partnerships & Engagement

- Judy King, DEL’s Strengthening Families of WA Administrator, shared the context for the Family Partnership and Engagement strategy, including what DEL learning from the parent focus group held in April 2014. DEL plans to reestablish the Parent Advisory Group to group according the recommendations from parents, so that the agency’s policies and programs support families’ strengths and needs.
 - [Family Partnerships & Engagement Proposal](#)
 - [Family Partnerships & Engagement Strategy Roles & Use table](#)
- The Council was asked to provide input on the following questions:
 1. Are there any key partners and potential roles and use missing from the table?
 2. Given DEL’s plan to reestablish the Parent Advisory Group, should there be a formal connection to ELAC, in addition to having a PAG representative?
 3. What are potential opportunities for partners to coordinate around broader family connections and engagement?
 4. How can partners coordinate to support community-based conversations?

Public Awareness

- Amy Blondin, Government and Community Relations Manager at the DEL, discussed the Public Awareness Work Group’s Recommendations and provided a preview of the [Raising of America](#) campaign.
 - [ELAC Public Awareness Recommendations](#)
 - [Raising of America Project Description](#)
 - [Effectively Communicating to Markets of One](#)

Discussion	<p>The group provided a few highlights from their small group discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State agencies should cross reference early learning-related information on their websites. • Utilize YouTube to access a broader audience. • Do something similar as the Child Care Exchange listserv, where your audience gets tidbits of information and can choose whether to click a link for more or delete if they aren’t interested in that particular topic. • Have FUN with social media in order to pull in a bigger fan base, for example George Takei and Washington State Department of Transportation’s Facebook pages.
Next Steps	<p>DEL will follow up with volunteers and those who expressed interest in the Raising of America campaign and will implement recommendations #2 and #3.</p>

2015 Work Plan

- Evette Jasper, State/Local Coordination Program Manager at DEL, provided a brief overview of the proposed 2015 Work Plan topics and asked for questions. She mentioned that DEL and the Executive Committee will continue to engage the Council in the development of the work plan over e-mail. Nelly added that the plan is a working document and may be updated as issues emerge.
 - [Key Criteria & Considerations](#)
 - [ELAC Work Plan Topics](#)

- [Summary of Work Plan topics input](#)

Meeting Follow-up & Reflection

- Bianca Bailey reflected on what was covered in the [2014 ELAC Work Plan](#) during the meeting and what topics to look forward to at the December 15 ELAC meeting, including Infant/Toddler Work Group recommendations, Advancing Racial Equity recommendations, and the adoption of the 2015 Work Plan.
- Deanna Stewart, DEL's State/Local Coordination Program Specialist, provided a few details for the December meeting, which will be held over the K-20 system. She mentioned that the locations around the state will be updated on the ELAC website soon, and more information would be sent out by mid-November along with a RSVP link.

Closing Remarks & Adjourn

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for **December 15th, 2014** from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at K-20 locations around the state.

ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bianca Bailey – Parent & Parent Advisory Group Member, Department of Early Learning
Luba Bezborodnikova – Associate Superintendent for Early Learning, Puget Sound ESD
Bob Butts – Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
RaShelle Davis – Early Learning Policy Advisory, Governor’s Executive Policy Office
Peter Finch – Assistant Superintendent, West Valley School District
Dee Hirsch – Program and Admissions Director, Discovery Montessori School
Dr. Bette Hyde – Director, Department of Early Learning
Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer – Early Learning Policy Director, Children’s Alliance
Caitlin Jensen – Project Manager, HSSCO, Department of Early Learning
Lindsay Lanham – Policy Associate, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
Lois Martin – Director, Community Day Center for Children, Inc.
Nelly Mbajah – Early Childhood Development Program Manager, Department of Social & Health Services
Anne Messerly – Program Associate, Washington Student Achievement Council
Jennifer Ross – Parent
Rebecca Timmen – Project LAUNCH State/Early Childhood Coordination Systems Coordinator, DOH
Karen Walker – ESIT Program Administrator, Department of Early Learning
Lisa Webb – Family Child Care Provider
Angus Mairs *on behalf of* Sam Whiting – President & Chief Executive Officer, Thrive by Five Washington

REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) IN ATTENDANCE

Susan Barbeau – First 5 FUNdamentals of Pierce County
Yolanda Esquivel – Southeast
Enrica Hampton – SOAR, King County
Karri Livingston – Investing in Children: Coalition Central
Rhodes Lockwood – Olympic-Kitsap Peninsulas
Wilanne Ollila-Perry – Northwest
Nancy Spurgeon – North Central
Sandra Szambelan – Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast
Dan Teuteberg – Visions for Early Learning, West Central
Jodi Wall – Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Annette Cleveland – Washington State Senate
Representative Jessyn Farrell – Washington State House of Representatives
Representative Larry Haler – Washington State House of Representatives
Jeromy Sullivan – Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe Chairman
VACANT – Washington State Senate