

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting

December 9, 2013 . 9:00 to 3:00 . Lacey Community Center

M i n u t e s

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
Kathy Goebel – Policy Associate, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH – State Health Officer, Department of Health
Dee Hirsch – Program and Admissions Director, Discovery Montessori School
Dr. Bette Hyde – Director, Department of Early Learning
Cynthia Juarez – Early Learning Director, ESD 105
Lois Martin – Director, Community Day Center for Children, Inc.
Nelly Mbajah – Early Childhood Development Program Manager, Department of Social & Health Services
Casey Osborn-Hinman *on behalf of* Leslie Dozono – Early Learning Policy Director, Children’s Alliance
Jennifer Ross – Parent
Cory Sbarbaro – Interim Chief Executive Officer & President, Thrive by Five Washington
Gene Sharratt – Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council
Karen Walker – ESIT Program Administrator, Department of Early Learning
Lisa Webb – Family Child Care Provider

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
Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer – Project Manager, HSSCO, Department of Early Learning
Jeromy Sullivan – Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe Chairman
VACANT – Washington State Senate

REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) IN ATTENDANCE

Susan Barbeau – First 5 FUNdamentals of Pierce County
Samantha Bowen – Southeast
Enrica Hampton – SOAR, King County
Melissa Kotzin *on behalf of* 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
Jodi Wall – Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

REGIONAL ADVISORS ABSENT

Dan Teuteberg – Visions for Early Learning, West Central

Opening Remarks from the Department of Early Learning (DEL) Director

- DEL Director, Bette Hyde welcomed everyone and shared that DEL is moving to a one system approach for our work, which will be discussed further after the first of the year.
- She took the opportunity to acknowledge the concern expressed about whether DEL is serious about strengthening its communication and partnership with the ten Early Learning Regional Coalitions (ELRC), since DEL has withdrawn the legislative proposal to add representatives from each of the regions. Bette confirmed that DEL is absolutely serious about hearing regional voices and taking input into consideration.
- Bette announced that the State of Washington and DEL will join together in February to promote an exciting initiative: Washington Parent Recognition Month. This month gives us the opportunity to recognize, honor and celebrate parents and/or primary caregivers for their vital leadership roles in their homes, communities and in our state. In honor of Parent Recognition Month, DEL will be holding the second annual Unsung Hero Award to recognize 28 exceptional parents and/or primary caregivers. She encouraged everyone to nominate a primary caregiver for their outstanding work with their own family or in the community by completing a [nomination form](#). Bette also invited everyone to attend the [Unsung Hero Award event](#) on February 24th from 4-7p at the Capitol.

Getting Connected

- ELAC members and RA's participated in an activity to get to know one another, warm up the meeting space for collaboration and focus attention on the topics for the day.

Council Q&A on the State & Partner Agency Updates

- State and Partner Agencies took comments and questions on updates submitted to ELAC members prior to the meeting.
 - [ELAC State & Partner Agency Updates](#)
- Amy Blondin, DEL Government and Community Relations Manager, provided a debrief on the ELAC request legislation to add ten seats to represent the ELRC's and designate an existing seat for the Early Learning Action Alliance (ELAA). The timing is not right and in keeping with the focus of ensuring our government is lean, the Governor's office requested that DEL not move forward with introducing the legislation. Regional Advisors will continue to participate, but not as formal voting members.

Discussion: **Bette Hyde** said she understands that other entities may want to move forward with requesting a bill, however DEL will not be endorsing. **RaShelle Davis** echoed Amy's remarks and added that the Governor's office is definitely supportive of ensuring wide and diverse representation on ELAC, and she will be working with Bette to find alternative ways to move forward with the RA's. **Bob Butts** highlighted from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) update that Educational Service District (ESD) 123 will be hosting the 2014 Starting Strong conference in Kennewick on August 5th – 6th with John Medina, author of *Baby Rules*, as the keynote speaker. **Maxine Hayes** introduced Ellen Silverman, Department of Health's (DOH) new public health nurse consultant. She is your resource for children's health in child care settings. **Cory Sbarbaro** shared that Thrive's search for a new Chief Executive Officer & President continues, and they will hopefully announce late this month or early January. To

follow up on the ELAC legislation conversation, the RA's are looking at pursuing a bill this legislative session with Thrive's support.

Regional Advisor Discussion

- Enrica Hampton, Regional Advisor to SOAR, King County provided an overview of the regions' responses to the questions posed at the October 1st ELAC meeting:
 - What are your region's/constituency's/network's top 3-5 issues or area of focus at this time related to key Early Learning Plan strategies?
 - What would your region/constituency/network like to recommend to the WELP (DEL, OSPI and Thrive) related to the development of our 2014 Priority Strategies from the Early Learning Plan?
- [ELRC Priority Issues/Focus Areas & Recommendations for Early Learning Plan Priority Strategies](#)
- [Draft ELRC Top Issues and Areas of Focus](#)
- [Draft ELRC Recommendations for Washington Early Learning Partnership \(WELP\) priority Early Learning Plan strategies](#)
- [Additional Themes & Discussion Guiding Questions](#)

Discussion: RA's present agreed that the task of getting their coalition's input was challenging. **Rhodes Lockwood** pointed out that the concern for paying special attention and having a greater emphasis on the needs of infants and toddlers in their region was not quite captured. In particular, an issue that continues to come up is promoting the continuity of care for infants and toddlers in licensed child care settings. **Wilanne Ollila-Perry** shared that the Northwest ELRC is both using data and staying aligned with what is happening at the state-level to set their regional priorities. **Susan Barbeau** made a request for disaggregated county-level data to help with regional collective impact planning efforts. **Jodi Wall** explained the public awareness challenge in southwest Washington because the media is dominated by content from Portland. **Sandra Szambelan** highlighted their coalition's collaboration with United Way on a cradle-to-career effort. **Melissa Kotzin** shared that the Central ELRC has a staff person designated to circulate newsletters the help with their communications efforts. **Maxine** recognized that internet is not always available in rural and remote areas suggested that regions can use their local health districts to distribute information. **Nancy Spurgeon** said that the North Central region emphasizes the use of data to set their strategies.

State-Approved Trainer (SAT) Application Process

- Angela Abrams, Professional Development Administrator at DEL along with Sue Winn from the Washington State Family Child Care Association and Sheryl Garrison from Child Care Aware of Washington led a presentation and discussion on the recommendations from the State-Approved Trainer Workgroup regarding the application for state-approved trainers.
 - [SAT Presentation](#)
 - [SAT Workgroup Recommendation Summary and Progress](#)
 - [SAT Group Process](#)

Discussion: **Dee Hirsch** asked how DEL is including organizations that provide trainings through special events. There is a there is a Conference/Special Event/Practitioner application process intended for one-time events and conferences. **Angela** mentioned that 75% of surveyed trainers prefer conferences and special events for training, and DEL is looking at revising the application process. **Luba Bezborodnikova** asked about the application process for organizations that regularly provide professional development, such as ESDs, school districts, colleges and

universities. **Angela** said there is a fast-track process specifically designed for such organizations to get approved. **Luba** asked about the trainings provided by the pilot Training Resource Centers (TRC). **Angela** shared that the TRC's will be guided through a process to become approved trainers.

Two-Way Communication Protocol

- Bea Kelleigh, Dovetailing and Enrica Hampton presented the recommended Two-Way Communication Protocol, which describes how DEL, ELAC and Regional Advisors will communicate and connect, and facilitated a discussion for adoption.
 - [Recommended Two-Way Communication Protocol](#)

Discussion: **Bea** thanked the ad hoc committee members that helped to develop the Protocol, including four Regional Advisors (Enrica, Wilanne, Nancy, and Jodi) and one ELAC member (Dee) along with Evette Jasper from DEL and Dan Torres from Thrive. **Dee** shared that having this protocol will encourage her constituency to be more involved. **Maxine** questioned whether the Tribes would be engaged through this protocol and encouraged that it be called out. **Bette** said that there is tribal representation on ELAC and DEL has suggested having a tribal advisory committee and requested a discussion to ask those types of questions. **Samantha Bowen** wondered if situations, such as the recent memo from Bette that included news about changes for DEL's Infant/Toddler Child Care Consultations would apply the protocol. **Bette** indicated that the message was about an internal reorganization at DEL. **Kelli Bohanon** added that the process and the Work Plan will allow ELAC to address emerging issues. **Maxine** asked how the committee will measure success when the protocol is reviewed. **Enrica** suggested that the process would start through the monthly RA calls, but the committee is yet to discuss formal measurements. **Cynthia Juarez** added that the coalitions will need to prepare to implement their communication roles. There was discussion on messiness alongside the formal protocol. **Maxine** offered that forming relationships to allow members to communicate freely is important and some structure is necessary. **Enrica** agreed that committee would need to reconvene to discuss what a successful protocol means.

ELAC members unanimously recommended that DEL confirm the Regional Advisor Two-Way Communication Protocol. ELAC further recommended that the Protocol be tested and that the RA Communication Committee reconvene in March 2014 to review the Protocol.

Public Comments: **Sue** asked when DEL will respond about the protocol. **Bette** said that DEL's Leadership Team will discuss the protocol at their next meeting. **Wendy Shuell** appreciated the SAT Approval Process discussion, but cautioned that the system is still the same until the recommendations move forward into implementation.

LUNCH and Reach Out and Read Presentation

- Jill Sells, Executive Director of Reach Out and Read Washington provided a presentation.
 - [Reach Out and Read presentation](#)
 - [Reach Out and Read Washington Five Year Report](#)
 - [Reach Out and Read Overview](#)
 - [Reach Out and Read: The Evidence](#)
 - [Participating Program List](#)
 - [Program Map](#)
- Amy Blondin introduced DEL's new Deputy Director, Heather Moss, the current Deputy Director for Child Care Aware of Washington.

Washington Early Learning Partnership Plan (WELP) – 2014 Priority Strategies

- Amy Blondin led a discussion to get ELAC’s overall feedback on the draft WELP priority [Early Learning Plan strategies for 2014](#) and advice on how we can work collectively on the priority strategies.

Discussion: **Maxine** asked if the WELP has extended to include DOH. **Kelli** confirmed that yes, Allene Mares will be joining the partnership meetings beginning in January, and DEL has not yet received a response from DSHS. **Maxine** suggested the list of priorities include strategies supporting the Healthiest Next Generation joint effort by DEL, OSPI and DOH to address childhood obesity. **Kelli** confirmed that they would discuss adding that under strategy #1. **Rhodes** was happy to see strategy #23, Implement Comprehensive Professional Development and Compensation System listed, but expressed concern that are no actions to address compensation, which is critical to retaining the work force. **Amy** asked for input on strategy #35 to strengthen public awareness and commitment. **Samantha** would like to see more support with getting messages from the state, not just people on the ground bringing their issues up. **Cynthia** added that it makes a difference when messages include joint voices and information on how it connects to various statewide initiatives. **Wilanne** suggested that people need to hear a communication many times before they listen, so we may need to keep repeating some messages several times. **Cynthia** and **Melissa** recommended that having state leaders visit coalitions to deliver messages in person is much more powerful and meaningful. **Sue Winn** agreed that would help with miscommunications in the field, such as family home providers requiring a GED. **Amy** mentioned that providers can now meet the minimum education requirement by earning a level 3 rating in Early Achievers (licensing rule ([WAC 170-296A-1725](#))). **Dee** asked how indicators, such as children’s access to health insurance and rates of abuse and neglect are tracked. There was a suggestion to flag certain key indicators, such as whether child care subsidies are keeping up with the cost of care. **Maxine** noticed the emphasis on early literacy and math. She suggested that the importance of Social/Emotional development to school readiness be reflected. **Casey** asked if OSPI is planning on tracking children’s’ early learning experiences prior to entering kindergarten. **Bob** said they would start with Head Start and ECEAP data and expand from there. The Education Research and Data Center (ERDC) is pursuing an approach where providers interested in seeing how the children they serve do in school can submit their data. **Nelly Mbajah** highlighted the need in strategy #4 for more skill-building opportunities for providers serving children with behavioral issues arising from experiencing trauma and maltreatment. **Amy** will take the input to the WELP, send a follow-up e-mail with how the input was used, and provide an update at the next ELAC meeting.

ELAC Work Plan Development

- Kelli Bohanon, DEL Assistant Director of Partnerships and Collaboration facilitated a discussion on the initial draft ELAC Work Plan topics, timing and process for 2014.
 - [Work Plan Development Presentation](#)
 - [Draft 2014 Work Plan topics and process](#)
 - [Small group discussion notes](#)

Reflection/Follow Up

- RA’s would like a summary of the ELAC meeting proceedings.
- ELAC and RA’s will provide feedback on the meeting seating arrangement.
- **Maxine** appreciated Bianca Bailey and Kathy Goebel for their skilled facilitation of the meeting.

Closing Remarks & Adjourn

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Feb. 24th, 2014** from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., location TBD.