

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting

April 8, 2013 . 9:00 to 3:00 . Lacey Community Center

Minutes

ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nina Auerbach – Chief Executive Officer & President, Thrive by Five Washington
Bianca Bailey – Parent
Jody Becker-Green – Chief Knowledge Officer, Department of Social & Health Services
Bob Butts – Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Leslie Dozono – Early Learning Policy Director, Children’s Alliance
Kathy Goebel *on behalf of* Marty Brown – Executive Director, 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
Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer – Project Manager, HSSCO, Department of Early Learning
Tafra Jones – Parent & Parent Advisory Group Member, Department of Early Learning
Cynthia Juarez – Early Learning Director, ESD 105
Lois Martin – Director, Community Day Center for Children, Inc.
Sandy Nelson – Assistant Superintendent, Early Learning, ESD 113
Mary Perkins – Early Childhood Consultant
Sue Winn – Family Child Care Provider

ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Don Bennett – Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council
Representative Roger Goodman – Washington State House of Representatives
Representative Larry Haler – Washington State House of Representatives
Senator Nick Harper – Washington State Senate
Senator Curtis King – Washington State Senate
Jeromy Sullivan – Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe Chairman
VACANT – Governor’s Executive Policy Office

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

- DEL Director Bette Hyde welcomed everyone and shared exciting news happening in DEL.
- Kelli Bohanon, DEL Assistant Director, Partnership & Collaboration shared information about the [Pinwheels for Prevention campaign in observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#).
- Bette introduced DEL’s new outreach tool that allows you to click on the green envelope on the DEL home page to customize the kinds of news and updates you receive from DEL.

- She also announced that DEL will be posting an “executive summary” of the annual [Race to the Top report](#) submitted to the federal government.

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](#)
 - [DEL – 2013-15 Biennial Budget Comparison](#)
 - [OSPI – Ready and Successful Schools](#)

Discussion: **Bob Butts** explained the current plans for funding and expanding WaKIDS and Full-day Kindergarten. With the Department of Health’s (DOH) focus on expanding universal developmental screening in the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant application, there was discussion on ensuring that the state also increases the capacity of Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) to keep up with the need for services. The Council acknowledged Nina Auerbach’s leadership at Thrive, especially championing the Advancing Racial Equity (ARE) work. **Molly Boyajian**, Thrive Director of Policy & Community Partnerships, invited participation in the ARE grant strategy development meeting on April 19th and the community of practice meeting on May 30th.

*See follow-up response on the Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) update questions below.

State/Local Coordination Project – Council Recommendations

- John Howell, Cedar River Group, and Bea Kelleigh, Dovetailing, facilitated a discussion and [presented on the draft State/Local Coordination \(SLC\) Project Final Report and Recommendations and first draft of the SLC Implementation Plan](#).
 - [DRAFT State and Local Coordination Project Final Report and Recommendations](#)

Discussion: **Bea** confirmed that the steering committee recommended no dual representations for the Early Learning Regional Coalition (ELRC) representatives. There was unanimous support for the recommendations with the following suggestions and concerns:

- Recommendation 8: Expand ELAC membership
 - **Cynthia Juarez** and **Sandy Nelson** suggested changing “Local Education Agency” to Educational Service Districts.
 - **Maxine Hayes** and **Dee Hirsch** expressed concern about narrowing the statute language.
 - **Sue Winn** and **Kathy Goebel** expressed concern over including Child Care Aware of Washington by name versus a description.
 - **Kathy** also expressed concern that the membership size may be too large.
- Recommendation 10: Increase engagement of diverse stakeholders
 - **Leslie Dozono** suggested that tasks 2 & 3 (Engage communities of color in regional initiatives & engage other communities that are far from opportunity) be near-term (1-2 month) implementation steps as well as ongoing.
- Recommendation 11: Strengthen joint local-regional-state action
 - **Bob Butts** suggested adding language on exploring revenue options to fund the implementation plan.

Early Learning Guidelines (ELG) Implementation

- Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer, DEL Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Project Manager asked the Council for feedback and advice on the [Early Learning Guidelines \(ELG\) Implementation](#) work plan.

Discussion: **Jody Becker-Green** suggested including connections to the child welfare system, including DSHS Children's Administration and the University of Washington's School of Social Work. **Maxine** suggested connecting with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Frontiers of Innovation, Maternal and Child Health at DOH as well as journalists. **Bette** mentioned that Reach Out and Read and public libraries statewide utilize the ELGs and suggested connections with spiritual leaders. **Kathy** confirmed that community colleges use them as part of their curriculum in the stackable certificates. **Bob Hamilton**, DEL Deputy Director suggested using the ELGs in developing performance goals. **Bob B.** suggested providing user-friendly resources to principals and teachers. **Mary Perkins** suggested getting feedback from ESIT local lead agencies.

How ELAC should be involved in future implementation of the ELGs?

- Getting feedback and monitoring implementation to inform the rewrite of the ELGs.
- Monitor to see how the implementation aligns with the goals of ARE and meets the needs of stakeholders.

Draft ELAC Work Plan for 2013

- Kelli Bohanon, DEL facilitated a discussion on the next [Draft ELAC Work Plan for 2013](#).

Discussion: Sue suggested forming a committee to discuss DEL's agency request legislation. **Leslie** encouraged getting feedback from the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) to bring to ELAC. **Kelli** noted that hopefully Strengthening Families Washington will help build capacity for the PAG. **Leslie** asked about the possibility of ELAC meeting more often as a result of the SLC recommendations. **Kelli** said one more meeting for the transition retreat is already being added. Mental health is not included because the issue is too broad for the work plan and DEL wants to be involved in cross-agency work. The Washington Administration Codes (WACs) will not be reopened in 2013, but DEL is committed to addressing issues around interpretation. Regarding ECEAP expansion by 2019, DEL is developing an implementation plan based on previous planning work and is getting closer to bringing something to ELAC. There was unanimous support for the draft work plan.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) - Child Care Subsidy Eligibility System Improvement

- Bette Hyde, DEL Director, reported back on the progress on the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) - Child Care Subsidy Eligibility System Improvement plan and timeline.
 - [Updates on Subsidy Eligibility Streamlining](#)

Discussion: **Sandy** asked if there is an effort to save money by reducing the enrollment cap. CCDF took sequestration cuts, so some families accessing the seasonal child care subsidy were moved to Working Connections Child Care (WCCC). **Leslie** suggested getting feedback from parents on their experiences with the subsidy system. The Council expressed appreciation to DSHS and DEL staff for the immense amount of work it took to make the changes.

Meeting Follow Up Discussion

- Nancy Vernon, DEL State/Local Coordination Administrator introduced the idea of getting feedback on improving ELAC meetings through a brief and anonymous survey. Sue, Dee, Cynthia, Lois Martin, and Tafra Jones volunteered to review the survey.

Closing Remarks & Adjourn

- The next meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2013 from 9:00am – 3:00pm, location TBD.

DSHS Update Q&A Follow-Up

1. Our telephone and paperwork volumes are under control with the average wait time for callers being around 2 minutes and out paperwork worked within an average of 3 days after receipt. **A few council members expressed concern about Spanish speaking families and inquired about wait times for these individuals.**

Spanish-speaking callers are not routed differently than English-speaking or any other language in the call system. The wait times and disconnect experience for them would be the same as for all other clients (currently at around 2 minutes or less with very few callers experiencing the "all lines are busy" message). The paperwork for LEP clients can take longer if it requires translation and it varies because we cannot affect how quickly those come back to us from translation services. Once we have the translated documents, the average days for LEP applications and reviews to be processed (including Spanish speaking) is 1- 2 days. As of 4-10-13, the combined paperwork average processing for LEP includes background checks, changes of all types, verification documentation, and applications and reviews and is around 6-7 days. The average days for "all types" paperwork for English-speaking clients is 5-6 days. This is a snapshot for that moment in time as we do not yet have the full data for April.

2. **Will the mobile CSO be used again this year to provide outreach and connections regarding seasonal child care?** A few council members stated this was very successful last year. **Also, are there any efforts underway that facilitate access to seasonal child care for Spanish speaking parents?**

The Mobile CSO has modified some of our routine visits to include childcare workers. An example would be in the rural community of Mattawa on 3/12/13, we had a bilingual childcare worker in the MCSO to provide full access to childcare. This is something that we now routinely do when we know that there is a demand for childcare assistance in an area that we are going to. Our next event with a childcare worker is in Quincy on April 17th as there is a seasonal childcare demand in that area. I do believe all of the childcare workers that work with us are bilingual. However, if we have a staff member who is not bilingual, they have access to interpreters over the phone and in some locations we even have them on the truck.

We currently do not have any special childcare events scheduled as they were not a success for us last year. We have found that by providing childcare workers at some of our events has been more beneficial than going to the seasonal migrant camps.

Last year's seasonal childcare event stats for May through July were:

- 5/10/12 Prescott - 2 childcare applications
- 5/29/12 Farmworker Housing -2 childcare applications
- 5/30/12 Sunnyside - 4 childcare applications
- 7/12/12 Malaga Migrant Camp - 0 childcare applications
- 7/13/12 Monitor Migrant Camp - 0 childcare applications

Last year's regular events where we had WCCC staff available at our normal "all program" events for May through July were:

- 5/1/12 Mattawa - 6 childcare applications
- 5/2/12 Quincy - 3 childcare applications/actions
- 6/5/12 Mattawa - 13 childcare applications
- 6/13/12 Quincy - 4 childcare applications
- 7/2/12 Mattawa - 14 childcare applications/actions
- 7/3/12 Quincy - 6 childcare applications

As you can see, we are more successful with our childcare outreach targeting the Mattawa and Quincy areas. Our posters highlighted that we would have childcare workers on the truck. The events that were publicized as seasonal childcare events where we worked with DEL and their contractor were not a success by our MCSO standards.

For seasonal childcare, we are again offering walk-in application services in the CSO's where seasonal childcare programs are in effect. We have increased our staffing levels and internal procedures to address the delays for summer care for both Seasonal and Working Connections Child Care and expect improved access this year for all parents.

3. What is the impact of sequestration on seasonal child care?

DEL has not gotten final federal fiscal year 2013 figures, so we don't know what the sequestration impact is yet. We have heard that the FFY 2013 appropriation to WA is slightly larger than 2012, and that the federal Office of Management and Budget is figuring out what the final figure will be to states. Until then, we have an amount of \$6.7 million that we plan to spend. The Office of Child Care's response is that it would be delayed, but haven't provided us any timelines.