

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting

June 24, 2013 . 9:00 to 3:00 . Lacey Community Center

M i n u t e s

ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nina Auerbach – Chief Executive Officer & President, Thrive by Five Washington
John Bancroft *on behalf of* Leslie Dozono – Early Learning Policy Director, Children’s Alliance
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 *on behalf of* Marty Brown – Executive Director, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
Representative Roger Goodman – Washington State House of Representatives
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.
Mary Perkins – Early Childhood Consultant
Sue Winn – Family Child Care Provider

ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Bianca Bailey – Parent
Don Bennett – Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council
Representative Larry Haler – Washington State House of Representatives
Senator Nick Harper – Washington State Senate
Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH – State Health Officer, Department of Health
Senator Curtis King – Washington State Senate
Sandy Nelson – Assistant Superintendent, Early Learning, ESD 113
Jeromy Sullivan – Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe Chairman
VACANT – Department of Social & Health Services

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

- DEL Director Bette Hyde welcomed everyone and shared exciting news happening in DEL.
- She shared the [ELAC Work Plan](#) handout.
- Bette announced that Leslie Dozono is on maternity leave and welcomed John Bancroft who will sit in for her until she returns. She also welcomed RaShelle Davis, newly appointed Early Learning Policy Advisor to the Governor.

- She said farewell to the following outgoing [ELAC members](#):
 - Nina Auerbach
 - Bianca Bailey
 - Bob Butts
 - Representative Roger Goodman
 - Representative Larry Haler
 - Senator Nick Harper
 - Tafra Jones
 - Senator Curtis King
 - Sandy Nelson
 - Mary Perkins
 - Jeromy Sullivan
 - Sue Winn
- Kelli Bohanon shared the process for New ELAC member recruitment:
 - 5 of the 12 expiring member seats will be open for recruitment on July 1. The 4 members who have served only one term have the option of reapplying along with the general public. The five ELAC seats open for recruitment are:
 - General/Parent
 - General/Parent Advisory Group
 - General/Family Home Child Care Provider
 - Head Start/Early Head Start/Migrant-Seasonal Head Start/Tribal Head Start
 - Early Support for Infants and Toddlers
 - Open recruitment announcements will be posted & sent to appropriate stakeholder communities for each of the five open seats based on the type of seat, on July 1.
 - Applications will be due on July 15.
 - The goal will be to have the Governor's office appoint by August 1.
 - The other 7 expired ELAC seats are appointed by the Governor directly, their agency, or through the legislature.

Discussion:

Membership selection will be made with strong consideration to the State/Local Coordination recommendations, including using the Advancing Racial Equity lens. Members emphasized the importance of staggered terms and the ability to serve more than one term.

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](#)
 - [OSPI – Ready and Successful Schools Executive Summary](#)
 - [OSPI – Read and Successful Schools Action Plan – Full Report](#)

Discussion: **Bob Butts** announced that OSPI did not receive the Reading Corps grant, so there will not be any additional positions. **Nina Auerbach** announced that with Molly Boyajian's recent departure, Lauren Hipp will step in as Thrive's Acting Director of Policy and Community Partnerships. Members discussed how the potential government shutdown would impact DEL and services to children and their families.

Agency Request Legislation

- Amy Blondin, DEL Government and Community Relations Manager, facilitated a discussion and [presented](#) on DEL's 2014 legislative agenda.
 - [Agency-request legislation process](#)
 - [Agency-request legislation discussion questions](#)
 - [BUILD – State Early Childhood Advisory Councils](#)

Discussion: ELAC members shared their vision of a successful 2014 Legislative Session, including more state funding to build on and sustain current early learning efforts. They see their role as advising DEL on decisions and supporting DEL's legislative agenda by providing constituent advocacy and gathering local data to tell the story.

Members discussed past barriers to overcome and areas that may or may not require legislation. Barriers included a deadlocked legislature, the need for more legislative champions and the lack of data to prove that programs are working. Areas for legislation included the ELAC membership statute; building a continuum of services, including B-3, with Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program (ECEAP) expansion; and increasing funding for Home Visiting, early intervention, professional development and compensation. Members mentioned the need to position Washington to take advantage of new federal funding if President Obama's early learning proposals are enacted.

Members of the public raised the issues of meeting the demand for early intervention if universal developmental screenings are implemented and the need for lower teacher/child ratios, especially for infants and toddlers. A follow-up e-mail to update ELAC members on where DEL and the Governor's office is in their processes will go out mid-July, and DEL will convene a call in early August to continue the conversation.

Early Achievers Connections

- Juliet Morrison, DEL Assistant Director of Quality Practice and Professional Growth Division, and Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer, DEL Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Program Administrator/DEL Tribal Liaison, shared an [Early Achievers video](#) and provided a [presentation](#) on the Head Start/ECEAP
- Reciprocity Pilot Project and community connections to Early Achievers.
 - [Early Achievers Quality Standards](#)
 - [Year 2 Policy Changes for Early Achievers](#)

Discussion: Early Achievers hopes to connect the Training Resource Hubs to current P-3 collaboration efforts, including Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS), as part of the larger landscape. A follow-up e-mail will be sent to members to get ideas for increasing community connections to Early Achievers.

State-Local Coordination Recommendations

- John Howell, Cedar River Group, and Bea Kelleigh, Dovetailing, provided a brief [overview on the status of the recommendations and early implementation actions](#).

Discussion: The Washington Early Learning Partnership (WELP) met and confirmed moving forward with the recommendations, with the exception of two recommended seats: Child Care Aware of Washington and Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS). These two positions

will not be recommended for assignment to the Council. It was also clarified that the ELAC Retreat on September 30th is for both new and continuing ELAC members.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Update

- Lynne Shanafelt, DEL Child Care Administrator, shared public input and goals for the CCDF plan, information about upcoming Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) reauthorization and CCDF proposed rule-making.
 - [CCDF Update](#)
 - [CCDF Public Hearings Summary](#)
 - [CCDBG Reauthorization Summary](#)

Discussion: Many comments during the CCDF Public Hearings were regarding school age care. DEL is continuing to meet with Schools Out Washington and figure out how to address concerns. **Lynne** provided more information on the Licensing goal of building a risk/strength-based assessment model that will shorten monitoring check-list based on a set of risk factors and help licensors target technical assistance to providers.

Meeting Follow Up Discussion

- Representative Roger Goodman stopped by to say thank you for his time on the Council, and to announce that Representative Jessyn Farrell will be appointed in his place.
- Nancy Vernon, DEL State/Local Coordination Administrator mentioned that an ELAC meeting survey will be sent to the Council within the next week. The survey will ask members to respond to questions related to overall meeting effectiveness, opportunity to provide meaningful guidance and feedback, and other questions related to meeting operations.
- Kathy Goebel announced that through funding from Race-to-the-Top (RTTT), there will be 20 Community and Technical College grants to providers.
- Members wished a happy retirement to Bob Hamilton.
- Departing ELAC members, Mary Perkins expressed appreciation for her participation and Sue Winn noted the progress made since the Council was formed.

Closing Remarks & Adjourn

- A retreat is scheduled for **September 30, 2013**
- The next regular meeting is scheduled for **October 1, 2013** from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Locations to be determined.