



Washington State Department of  
**Early Learning**

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting  
April 5, 2016

## State Agency and Partner Updates

### Agency/Partner Update

#### Department of Early Learning (DEL)

For more information please contact Frank Ordway at [Frank.Ordway@del.wa.gov](mailto:Frank.Ordway@del.wa.gov)

- The agency is pleased to announce some key new hires. Tleena Ives has come on board as our Tribal Liaison; Vickie Ybarra is our Director of Research and Analysis; and Kelli Bohanon is our new ECEAP Administrator. We are very excited for the talent, skills, and much needed capacity that they bring to DEL.
- Sign-up for Early Achievers is progressing steadily towards the August 1, 2016 deadline for all providers serving children on subsidy. Of these providers, there are fewer than 750 out of the 3,481 total that still need to register for EA. Coordinated outreach is being made to these providers to explain the benefits of EA and to provide assistance in their registration.
- On March 28, 2006 then Governor Gregoire signed House Bill 2964, creating the Department of Early Learning. We are excited to be celebrating 10 years of serving our state's youngest learners, and are looking forward with optimism to the next 10 and beyond.

#### Department of Health & Social Services (DSHS)

No update at this time.

#### Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

For more information please contact Bob Butts at [Bob.Butts@k12.wa.us](mailto:Bob.Butts@k12.wa.us)

- **Early Childhood provisions of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**
  - OSPI is creating a subcommittee to make recommendations to the Superintendent regarding the implementation of the Early Childhood components of ESSA.
- **Legislative Session**
  - **K-3 Teacher Supply and Demand:** SB 6455 (Passed) – Creates a recruitment campaign and other programs to address the teacher/substitute shortage, including K-3 teachers
  - **Early Support for Infant and Toddlers:** SB 6371 (Passed) - DEL to conduct analysis and make recommendations for a statewide integrated delivery system. Will review school district role in delivery of services.
  - **Supplemental Budget:** SHB 2376) (Not yet passed)
- **ECEAP Facilities Analysis**
  - DEL, in coordination with OSPI, has contracted with the BERKE Group to develop recommendations for providing and financing additional ECEAP classrooms. Results available this summer.

- The statewide Head Start/ECEAP Association will be contracted to identify projects that are being considered by schools districts and other organizations and will provide technical assistance.
- **Early Numeracy**
  - Training session for trainers on the Counting and Carnality module was scheduled for March 23-24. Rollout plans being considered.
- **Conferences: Save the dates!**
  - Reading Summit, Spokane, April 29 – 30 *Register Now!*  
<http://www.k12.wa.us/ELA/pubdocs/SpokaneFlyerOptions.pdf>
  - Starting Strong, Tacoma, August 1-3 <http://startingstrong.net/>

#### Department of Health (DOH)

For more information please contact Maria Nardella at [Maria.Nardella@DOH.WA.GOV](mailto:Maria.Nardella@DOH.WA.GOV)

- **Early Childhood Comprehensive Services (ECCS) Grant.** DOH just submitted a grant application for a new ECCS Grant. This is a federal funding stream we've had since 2001 in three year increments that we've used as the foundation for our universal developmental screening partnership work. The grant is much more competitive this year with only 15 to be awarded nationally for five years each at \$426,600 per year. The grant is intended to use a collective impact process to "show a 25% increase in age appropriate developmental skills among three year old children". It will build on the Help Me Grow-Washington Partnership and test system change ideas, develop spread strategies, and adopt new innovative early childhood policies that improve children's developmental health and family well-being. Two communities were identified as potential pilots. One will be the Pierce County Early Learning Regional Council (First 5 FUNDamentals) and the other will be the four county SW Washington region of the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA). If awarded, the new grant will start on August 1, 2016. For more information, please contact our current ECCS Coordinator, Christine Stalie at [Christine.Stalie@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Christine.Stalie@doh.wa.gov).
- **Federal Autism Grant Application.** Grant season continues at DOH and staff are now working on a federal autism grant to "improve access to a coordinated, comprehensive state system of services that leads to early diagnosis and entry into services for young children with ASD/DD with a focus on medically underserved and rural populations." The autism grant is due May 10<sup>th</sup>. Meredith Pyle is the lead if you're interested in providing input. ([meredith.pyle@doh.wa.gov](mailto:meredith.pyle@doh.wa.gov)).
- **Child Health Workgroup.** The DOH Child Health Workgroup will partner with the Governor's Healthiest Next Generation Initiative to focus on child health for Washington State. They will partner to define what makes a healthy child and how to achieve that for all children in Washington. For more information, please contact Shanne Montague at [shanne.montague@doh.wa.gov](mailto:shanne.montague@doh.wa.gov).
- **Essentials for Childhood (EfC) Grant Update.** The EfC grant continues to support cross-sector collaboration to support safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children. The EfC Steering Committee provides strategic leadership. Two workgroups are moving forward:
  - **Community and Stakeholder Education and Action workgroup** is partnering with communities to host events focused on developing culturally appropriate messages on

safe, stable, nurturing relationships for children and families. The activities are being funded by both public and private partners. They will leverage community wisdom and see how they can build on those lessons and work with more communities in the future.

- **The Innovative New Policy and Financing workgroup** is exploring three target areas:
  - Standardizing certification for school personnel on “trauma informed” responses to students.
  - Opportunities to partner with projects that are part of the Section 1115 Medicaid waiver via the Health Care Authority.
  - Keeping kids out of foster care and supporting TANF families by connecting them to resources.

For more information on EfC activities, contact Marilyn Gisser ([Marilyn.gisser@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Marilyn.gisser@doh.wa.gov)) and see [www.doh.wa.gov/efc](http://www.doh.wa.gov/efc).

- **Great MINDS.** There was another Great MINDS (Medical Homes Include Developmental Screening) training in Coupeville on Whidbey Island in February for pediatricians around developmental screening and local early intervention services. The DEL/ESIT Family Leadership Involvement Committee helped DOH recruit a new parent co-trainer. The parent’s involvement in FLIC boosted her skills and knowledge regarding the work being done in WA, in addition to sharing her personal experiences. The new parent was from the local community and knew many of the medical and EI providers through her community work with the Autism Task Force there. She has agreed to participate in other parent leadership projects around early childhood needs. For more information, contact Michelle Hoffman at [michelle.hoffman@doh.wa.gov](mailto:michelle.hoffman@doh.wa.gov).
- **Lead Screening for Children.** In December, the Department of Health released a report on [Expert Panel Recommendations for Childhood Blood Lead Screening](#). The Expert Panel developed new statewide targeted childhood lead screening clinical guidelines and algorithm to assist providers in targeting their blood lead testing to children at increased risk of lead exposure. DOH also created [an interactive mapping tool](#) for identifying and ranking areas in Washington state that are at higher risk for lead exposure, based on a combination of housing and poverty levels by census tracts. Providers and/or parents can enter an address to help determine if the location is at a higher risk of lead exposure indicating that their child should have a blood lead test performed. The Lead Exposure Risk map adds another clinical tool, along with a [risk factor questionnaire and clinical judgement](#), to help decide on screening protocol. For more information, please contact Elisabeth Long at [elisabeth.long@doh.wa.gov](mailto:elisabeth.long@doh.wa.gov)
- **State action to remove toxic chemicals from consumer products.** Flame retardant chemicals, added to many consumer products, escape from products into house dust and indoor air. They are detected in people’s bodies and are often measured at higher levels in young children. DOH is especially concerned about flame retardant chemicals that cause cancer and developmental toxicity in animal testing because these endpoints are of special concern to the developing child. Prenatal exposure to several flame retardant chemicals are associated learning and memory problems in laboratory animals and children. DOH supported a WA state legislative effort to reduce prenatal and early life exposure to 11 flame retardants of concern to children. Engrossed substitute House bill 2545 passed the state House and Senate unanimously this session and is waiting to

be signed by the Governor. It bans 5 flame retardants in residential furniture and children's product and directs the Depts. of Health and Ecology to study 6 more and make a recommendation regarding whether these too should be banned. A general [DOH policy brief](#) on the issue is attached. For more information contact Barbara Morrissey at [Barbara.morrissey@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Barbara.morrissey@doh.wa.gov).

- **Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act Protects Kids From E-Liquid.** President Obama signed into law the [Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act](#), which requires all liquid nicotine containers used for e-cigarettes and other vaping devices to be sold in child-resistant packaging. This law addresses growing concern over child poisoning cases related to e-cigarettes, which [increased tenfold](#) between 2011 and 2014 and totaled more than 3,638 in 2014, as well as [one death](#) of a 1-year-old boy resulting from ingestion of nicotine e-liquid. While this legislation is an important step in increasing the safety of e-cigarettes and other electronic smoking devices, safety issues still abound. They remain unregulated by the FDA. Currently, DOH does not have any local news to share on the multiple e-cigarette regulation bills the state legislature is considering. For more information, contact Joella Pyatt ([Joella.pyatt@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Joella.pyatt@doh.wa.gov)).
- **Child Sexual Abuse Prevention.** Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress has recently released a new resource for parents, caregivers and other caring adults to support their efforts in preventing child sexual abuse. The resource provides tips on topics such as:
  - Talking about healthy sexuality
  - Consent, boundaries and touching
  - Responding to a child that has been sexually abused

The electronic version is available at

<https://depts.washington.edu/hcsats/csabooklet.html> and can be accessed in multiple languages. The Rape Prevention and Education Program (RPE) at the DOH has purchased a small number of hardcopies in English and Spanish. If you are interested in a small stack of In January, the new Washington State Suicide Prevention Plan was released. The plan addresses suicide prevention and intervention across the lifespan and organizes the work ahead in four strategic directions that include relevant goals and recommendations for policy, system change and community action. Suicide is a serious public health problem and everyone can be engaged in preventing it. To learn more about what the DOH is doing and how you can get involved please see the website at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InjuryandViolencePrevention/SuicidePreventionPlan>

For more information, please contact Kirstin McFarland at [Kirstin.mcfarland@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Kirstin.mcfarland@doh.wa.gov).

- **Nutrition and Child Care.** The Department of Health is partnering with the Harvard Prevention Research Center at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health to study the cost effectiveness of incorporating the Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC) program into Early Achievers. NAP SACC is one of the most intensively studied and widely disseminated interventions available to guide early learning programs in making healthy changes to their nutrition and physical activity practices. Staff from Department of Early Learning and Child Care Aware of Washington are collaborating on this study, which is an effort of the Healthiest Next Generation

Initiative. Results should be available the summer. A New [HNG Policy Brief](#) and a [Successes document](#) for HNG are posted at the HNG webpage under *Learn More*: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/healthiestnextgen>.

For more information, contact Bridget Igoe at [bridget.igoe@doh.wa.gov](mailto:bridget.igoe@doh.wa.gov).

### **Thrive Washington (Thrive)**

For more information please contact Sam Whiting at [Sam@thrivewa.org](mailto:Sam@thrivewa.org)

- **2016 Leadership Luncheon:** Thrive's 2016 Leadership Luncheon will be held Wednesday, April 6 at the Sheraton Seattle. Drawing more than 400 business, community and early learning leaders, the luncheon celebrates early learning and the progress that Thrive and our partners are making across the state to give more children and families a great start. At this year's luncheon, Sam Whiting, Thrive president and CEO, and Department of Early Learning director Ross Hunter will take the stage to talk about our collective vision for the future of early learning. We also are honored to have as this year's keynote speaker Dr. Candace Kendle, a former worldwide biopharmaceutical leader and current president of the Read Aloud 15 MINUTES National Campaign, who will talk about her commitment to early learning from her perspective as a business leader. <https://thrivewa.org/luncheon/>
- **Legislative Reception and Advocacy Day 2016:** On Feb. 18, Thrive and the Washington State Department of Early Learning kicked off our 10th Anniversary years with a reception in Olympia to thank state legislators for creating us in 2006 and continuing to increase their bipartisan commitment and investment in our state's youngest children and their families. The next day, Thrive brought together the state's 10 Early Learning Regional Coalitions for their annual advocacy day. <https://thrivewa.org/23180-2/>
- **Workforce Development:** In early February, Thrive led a Washington state team to Washington D.C., joining four other states for the first Transforming the Workforce Implementation Phase meeting hosted by the Institutes of Medicine. This strategic planning supports the group's broader work with the Washington Early Learning Professional Development group, which is charged with issuing a report this fall on how Washington will support and grow its early learning workforce.