

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Lacey Community Center

Welcome & Introductions

- Bianca Bailey, ELAC Co-Chair and Enrica Hampton, Regional Advisor for SOAR, King County welcomed attendees and asked for introductions.
- The [June 2, 2015 meeting minutes](#) were approved unanimously.
- ELAC reviewed the [feedback loop form](#), one of the information sharing tools of the [Two-Way Communication Protocol](#).
- The council reviewed the updates provided by [State Agencies/Partners](#) as well as those provided by the [Regional Coalitions](#).

Advancing Racial Equity

- Evette Jasper, DEL’s State/Local Coordination Administrator and the ELAC Racial Equity Work Group members (Yolanda Esquivel, Nancy Spurgeon, Wilanne Ollila-Perry, Lois Martin, Caitlin Jensen and Deanna Stewart) presented the recommendations for implementation ELAC’s Racial Equity framework.
 - [ELAC Racial Equity Work Group Recommendations](#)
 - [Revised State/Local Roles & Responsibilities Graphic](#)
 - [Revised Essential Racial Equity Questions](#)
 - [Revised ELAC Charter & Guiding Documents](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEL should work with experts and community-based partners outside of agency to help develop the conversations in each region to on what cultural and linguistic relevance means. • ELAC should collect data on how well the racial equity implementation plan is being implemented and potentially work with an outside evaluator or developing an evaluation system. • When DEL collects data, include plans to encourage families and providers to share their racial and ethnic backgrounds. Include messaging around the importance of collecting this information. • There was discussion about also paying attention to linguistic diversity and supports for dual language learners (DLL), since that was also a key focus of the Early Start Act. It should be a specific focus of a separate committee, since the needs and work may look different and language considerations impact different communities in different ways. • An ongoing subcommittee of ELAC should be established to focus on this work in depth. • Share a draft data dashboard with ELAC at the October meeting.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELAC will continue to submit comments, questions and input on the ELAC Racial Equity Work Group Recommendations, revised ELAC Charter and Racial Equity

	<p>Questions to DEL by Friday, September 11, 2015. A fuller discussion will take place at the October 6 ELAC meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEL will continue to convene ELAC’s Racial Equity Work Group.
--	--

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

- Lynne Shanafelt, DEL’s CCDF Administrator and Matt Judge, DEL’s Subsidy Policy Supervisor requested input on some targeted questions on how DEL should develop the CCDF Plan and implement the new requirements of the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014.
 - [CCDF Policy Questions](#)
 - [Revised CCDF Preprint](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was discussion on the intent of the family engagement section of the CCDF plan, including making sure parents know the importance of and how to find licensed, high quality child care and supporting parents as children’s first and most important teachers. DEL is seeking broader input on family engagement to understand what the state should aspire to do, and then ask for more targeted input. • DEL should find a way to measure family engagement to make sure it is definitely happening. • Ideas for helping child care providers support children’s social emotional development include providing resources training, and technical assistance. For example, how providers can develop and implement behavior plans. Look to the K-12 system’s efforts. Ensure we are also looking at policies for infant and toddler care, not just preschool. • There is currently no way to track data on families being asked to leave child care settings because of behavioral issues. The state can gather data on questions such as: What policies around expulsion are currently in place; why do families leave programs; what are the conversations between providers and families prior to children being asked to leave; what is the context that impacts children’s behavior outside of care; are children being expelled disproportionately? • Many families that choose non-relative license-exempt care live in areas where licensed centers and family homes are available. DEL can conduct a survey to ask why families are choosing that form of care. • CCDF policy question responses.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELAC will continue to submit comments, questions and input on the CCDF Policy Questions by Friday, September 11, 2015.

Early Start Act (ESA) Overview

- Luba Bezborodnikova, DEL’s Assistant Director for the Early Start Act provided an [overview of the ESA](#) and cross walked DEL programs and initiatives and ELAC’s role in implementing the law, including the Early Achievers Review Subcommittee and ESA Annual Report.
 - [Early Start Act \(HB 1491\)](#)
 - [ESA Overview](#)
 - [ESA Annual Report Timeline](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEL has a web page that outlines the deliverables and timelines required by the Early Start Act and implementation resources: http://www.del.wa.gov/government/EarlyStartAct/Default.aspx • DEL and Thrive will work together to develop the community engagement
------------	--

	process supported by Early Learning Regional Coalitions (ELRC) and advisory committees.
--	---

ESA – Early Achievers Review Subcommittee

- Evette Jasper presented options for the timeline to establish the Early Achievers Review Subcommittee.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELAC can choose to include more representatives than called out in the legislation, including early intervention. • There was discussion on how quickly to establish the subcommittee and how to engage the entire Council in the development of the Early Start Act Annual Progress Report due in December. • Since the tasks of the subcommittee are so specific, DEL will establish the subcommittee by the end of September with the understanding that more members may join on an ongoing basis. In the interim, DEL will convene a short-term work group to recommend the Subcommittee membership and work with DEL on the Annual Progress Report.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer, Caitlin Jensen, Dee Hirsch, Amy Kocher, Lois Martin, Wilanne Ollila-Perry, Nancy Spurgeon, Dan Torres for Thrive WA volunteered to join the short-term Early Achievers Review work group. • ELAC will submit membership nominations for the Early Achievers Review Subcommittee by Monday, August 24, 2015. • ELAC will receive a draft membership list by August 31 and respond with any suggestions or concerns by September 4.

ESA – Early Achievers

- Rachael Brown-Kendall, DEL’s QRIS Administrator provided [an update](#) on Early Achievers implementation across the state and facilitated discussion on current successes and challenges.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was discussion on how Early Achievers is meeting the needs of each provider group (Family Homes, Centers, Head Start/ECEAP providers). Does each group get equal supports or are supports targeted based on specific needs. Rachael shared the example of family home and Somali providers in some regions going through the rating process in cohorts. • Requests for additional information included: how many sites are participating versus how many have been rated; a corresponding map to see what counties are included in each of the regions; a breakdown of languages by family homes versus centers; the total number of children being served in Early Achievers sites; the percentage of children with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP); the number of children receiving Working Connections Child Care subsidies. • The language breakdowns by region only reflect languages spoken by participating providers and are not necessarily representative of the entire count populations. • All regions have been ready to conduct baseline assessments to providers since February 2015. • Small group worksheet
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachael requested that ELAC continue to share challenges, successes, questions, input and ideas with her at rachael.brown-kendal@del.wa.gov.

2016 DEL Request Legislation

- Justin Monterini, DEL’s Government and Community Relations Manager lead a discussion of the 2015 legislative session and provided an overview of DEL’s 2016 legislative agenda.
 - [ELAC 2015 Legislative Session Update](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEL is looking at three overarching requests. There may be a number of smaller, targeted decision packages which would be under these broader topics. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early Start Act – policy changes and funding needed to comply 2. State & Federal compliance 3. Supports for children and providers • A few specific examples of potential request legislation include funding to continue DEL’s role in the Healthiest Next Generation initiative as well as continued funding for Medicaid Treatment Child Care. • DEL will update and engage ELAC once the Governor’s office decides which decision packages will move forward.
------------	---

2016 ELAC Work Plan

- Deanna Stewart, DEL’s State/Local Coordination Program Manager presented the [streamlined ELAC Work Plan Development Process](#) and asked the Council generate ideas on topics to provide guidance, take action and receive updates and briefings on for the 2016 Work Plan.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small group notes on potential topics.
------------	--

Meeting Follow-up, Closing Remarks & Adjourn

- Enrica Hampton, reflected on what ELAC covered on the [2015 ELAC Work Plan](#) and what topics to look forward to during the October ELAC meeting, including the 2013 Work Force Report, Early Start Act, Advancing Racial Equity, ELAC Co-Chair Elections, and the 2016 ELAC Work Plan.
- The Council thanked Dr. Bette Hyde for her service as DEL’s Director and shared their reflections and thoughts about her contributions and legacy in building the early learning system for Washington.
- The next regular meeting is scheduled for **October 6th, 2015**, Location TBD.

ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Bianca Bailey – Parent & Department of Early Learning Parent Advisory Group Member
- Bob Butts – Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Representative Tom Dent – Washington State House of Representatives
- Peter Finch – Assistant Superintendent, West Valley School District
- Kathy Goebel – Policy Associate, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
- 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
- Lois Martin – Director, Community Day Center for Children, Inc.
- Senator Mark Miloscia – Washington State Senate
- Jennifer Ross – Parent
- Sam Whiting – President & Chief Executive Officer, Thrive Washington

REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) IN ATTENDANCE

- Susan Barbeau – First 5 FUNdamentals of Pierce County

August 10, 2015 ELAC Meeting Minutes

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

RaShelle Davis – Early Learning Policy Advisory, Governor’s Executive Policy Office

Anne Messerly – Program Associate, Washington Student Achievement Council

Representative Tana Senn – Washington State House of Representatives

Karen Walker – ESIT Program Administrator, Department of Early Learning