



Washington State Department of
Early Learning

State Agency and Partner Updates

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting

August 10, 2015 – 9:00 am to 3:30 pm – Lacey Community Center

Agency/Partner Update

Department of Early Learning (DEL)

For more information please contact Justin Montermini at Justin.Montermini@del.wa.gov

- Preparation for 2016 session is underway
- Preliminary Early Start implementation plan will be available after Starting Strong
- Executive search is in interview process
- WELP recommitment is including DOH and DSHS

Department of Health & Social Services (DSHS)

- No updates to share at this time.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

For more information please contact Bob Butts at Bob.Butts@k12.wa.us

- **State funding for Full-day Kindergarten (FDK)**
 - The Legislature funded 71.88% of kindergarten children for the 2015-16 school year and 100% in 2016-17, which is one year before it is required in the Basic Education Act.
 - Funding was also provided for WaKIDS, including training support for teachers new to WaKIDS
 - In addition, \$200 million was included in the Capital Budget for FDK and K-3 Class size reduction classroom space. Existing pre-K classrooms will be counted as “occupied” when inventories are done to determine needs in buildings.
 - A list of newly-funded schools will be available by July 31
at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/EarlyLearning/FullDayKindergartenResearch.aspx>
- **Kindergarten Professional Development:** OSPI and ESD 113 have created three Professional Development modules for Kindergarten Teachers. The modules are Child Development, Learning Environment, and Learning Centers. Approximately 30 ESD and School District staff have been trained on the modules. More information is available at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/EarlyLearning/ProfDevModule.aspx>
- **Full-Day Kindergarten Guide:** Laurie Sjolund (Sumner School District) and Kristi Dominguez (Bellingham School District) are on contract with OSPI to create a FDK Guide in how to develop academically rigorous, developmentally appropriate, kindergarten classrooms. A draft will be available at Starting Strong.
- **Social-Emotional Standards:** OSPI received funding in the state operating budget to create K-12 comprehensive social-emotional benchmarks that are built upon those in early learning. The recommendations are due in October 2016.
- **Early Numeracy PD:** Julie Wagner, OSPI, and Rachel Eifler, ESD 101, are working with a

group of early numeracy specialists to build PD modules that could be used in “P-3” professional development. The “*Learning Pathways in Numeracy*” document will be incorporated into the modules.

- **Early Literacy PD:** OSPI and PSESD are working with Molly Branson Thayer, UW, to create a “*Learning Pathways in Early Literacy*” document. A draft will be available in the fall.
- **ECEAP Capital Facilities:** DEL, OSPI, the Governor’s Office, school districts, WSA, and others have been meeting to explore possible funding programs for early learning centers and to streamline the regulatory environment. The group is creating a proposal to obtain funds to determine the scope and specifics of the problem and identify recommendations for obtaining financial and other resources to address it.

Department of Health (DOH)

For more information please contact Leslie Carroll at Leslie.Carroll@doh.wa.gov

- The Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP) has recently released an update on their ‘Where We Live’ pilot project initiative. ‘Where We Live’ is a child abuse primary prevention program that focuses on engaging parents and community members to keep kids safe, promote healthy child development and change community norms that contribute to child sexual abuse. Over the past couple of years, the WCSAP initiative supported community sexual assault programs across Washington State in their implementation of the ‘Where We Live’ curriculum created by Pittsburgh Action Against Rape and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.
- Statewide response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive. The curriculum emphasizes the development of community partnerships and stakeholder input to further the success of the program. Community sexual assault programs reported building partnerships with daycare centers, school programs, Child Protective Services, children’s residential and group care facilities and the GRADs program as they implemented the ‘Where We Live’ curriculum across Washington. For more detail, you can review the report at: <http://www.wcsap.org/pilot-project-report>
- The summer 2015 issue of Partners in Social Change focuses on the prevention of child sexual abuse and can be viewed at: <http://www.wcsap.org/PISC-Preventing-CSA>. At the Department of Health, contact Kirstin McFarland, Intentional Injury Prevention Specialist at Kirstin.mcfarland@doh.wa.gov
- A farewell note from Rebecca Timmen: I will no longer be participating on ELAC as I have recently accepted another position outside of the agency. It has truly been an honor to have served on the council among such passionate and dedicated early childhood professionals. It has been very rewarding to have been part of creating the Early Learning Plan and now seeing the implementation in progress. I am excited to see the focus on Infants and Toddlers through the creation of the Birth – Three subcommittee. Health is even more crucial in the earliest years, so I am pleased that several of my health colleagues will be lending their expertise to that committee. I will spread ELAC’s wisdom and innovative ideas as I work with 3 additional states in my new role with ICF as the Health Specialist for Region X Head Start. WA is also one of the states in Region X, so I look forward to continuing to cross paths and partnering with many of you in early childhood. Thank you for the wonderful experience of working with

all of you, and best wishes for continued success. -Rebecca

Thrive Washington (Thrive)

For more information please contact Sam Whiting at Sam@thrivebyfivewa.org

- New Board Members: At its June Board Meeting, Thrive welcomed five new board members.
 - Sally Brownfield, Education Specialist, Squaxin Island Tribe
 - George Edwards, Co-Founder and Secretary, Cedarmere Foundation
 - Uriel Iniguez, Executive Director, Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs
 - Kris Thompson, Executive Director of External Affairs, Group Health Cooperative
 - Alan Walker, Executive Director, United Ways of Chelan & Douglas Counties
- **Upcoming Conferences:** There are a number of events coming up to support the professional development of the early learning field. Thrive is helping to sponsor the following:
 - **Washington Home Visiting Summit: Sept. 9-10, 2015 in Seattle.** Thrive Washington, the Washington Dental Service Foundation and the Washington Department of Early Learning are pleased to announce Washington's first Home Visiting Summit. Designed specifically for home visitors and direct supervisors, the Summit will offer attendees two days of interactive sessions as well as knowledge and activities they can start using with their next home visit. [Learn more](#)
 - **Young Child Expo: Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2015 in Spokane.** The Young Child Expo & Conference Spokane carries on the tradition of the Young Child Expo & Conference New York City with the same great speakers and great learning for professionals and parents. The YCE Spokane is presented by the Gonzaga University School of Education and Los Niños Services. Thrive board member Beck Taylor, president of Whitworth College, and Thrive President & CEO Sam Whiting will be among the keynote speakers. [Learn more](#)
 - **Zero to Three National Training Institute: Dec. 2-4, 2015 in Seattle.** The Zero to Three's 30th Annual National Training Institute is being held in Seattle this year! Join more than a 1,000 attendees for a comprehensive and multidisciplinary conference focused on cutting-edge research, best practices, and policy issues for infants, toddlers and families. Thrive is a platinum sponsor of the conference, giving us the opportunity to host an evening event on a topic of our choice. Stay tuned for more information! [Learn more](#)
- **Coalition Meeting:** The quarterly meeting of the Early Learning Regional Coalitions will be held in Spokane on Sept. 30.
- Funding Opportunities:
 - **Home Visiting Services Account –**
 - *FY16 Parents as Teachers (PAT) in Tacoma-Pierce County Special Funding Opportunity.* This competitive funding opportunity is a reinvestment of MIECHV Cohort 6 funds and is restricted for use in Tacoma-Pierce County, Council Districts 4 and 6. It is only available to organizations operating or proposing to start a Parents as Teachers home visiting

program.

- *Rural Home Visiting Project*. We are currently accepting applications from three communities and should have the final grantee confirmed in September. This grantee will join three other rural communities increasing home visiting opportunities.
- **Community Momentum** – An RFP for CY16 funding of the 10 Early Learning Regional Coalitions is expected at the end of September.
- **STEM** – A RFP is out now for the five Cohort 2 STEM grantees. Based on a competitive review process of proposals, three of the five grantees will receive continued funding. Awards will be announced in September.