



Washington State Department of
Early Learning

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting
December 1, 2015 – Capital Event Center

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

- As of Nov. 2, the DEL online resource Child Care Check now features quality ratings for each licensed child care provider and early learning program in the database that has been rated. The ratings are part of the state's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) called Early Achievers. To learn more visit www.del.wa.gov and click on the Child Care Check logo on the homepage.
- On Nov. 18 DEL and Thrive Washington hosted a symposium about the Pay for Success feasibility study currently being conducted to determine if this funding model can expand and strengthen home visiting programs statewide. It engaged philanthropic, investment, legislative and government audiences in learning about this new financing tool. To learn more visit <https://thrivewa.org/payforsuccess/>.
- This week the National Training Institute is hosting the Zero to Three conference in Seattle. This event brings together experts and practitioners in early child care and education from across the country. DEL is a sponsor of this event, and to learn more visit <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1676849>
- Frank Ordway will be joining the DEL team as a new Assistant Director. Most recently he has served as the Government Relations Director for the League of Education Voters, and was the glue that held together many fragile coalitions in order to pass key legislation, including the bills defining the Legislature's responsibility to fund K-12 (which resulted in the McCleary decision) and the Early Start Act last year. Among many tasks, he'll be working with stakeholders and the legislature, and coordinating our communications efforts. We are very excited to have him come on board.

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

- **Reading Summits**
 - OSPI will be co-sponsoring two additional Reading Summits similar to the sold-out summits held in Seattle and Lynwood earlier this year. The summits feature Richard Allington and a large number of other national experts in early literacy. The Portland Summit will include a *K-1 Reading Mini-Summit*. Additional information is available at:
<http://www.k12.wa.us/ELA/pubdocs/PortlandSummit11Flyer.pdf>
 - Locations and dates include:

- Portland Convention Center, January 22–23
 - Spokane Convention Center, April 29–30
- **Teacher and Substitute Shortage**
 - OSPI and the Principal’s Association conducted a survey on the teacher and substitute shortage and found that 93% of principals stated that they are in a “crisis mode” or “struggling” to find qualified teachers. 74% indicated that they had covered a class in the past 5 days because a substitute was not available. The second highest area of need was elementary teachers.
 - This shortage will likely impact Early Learning programs by hiring away staff, even if the staff is not certificated.
- **WaKIDS Data Availability**
 - This fall’s Teaching Strategies GOLD data is scheduled to be available on the OSPI Report Card site in early January, which will make it available for regional and local discussions early learning collaborations.

Department of Health (DOH)

For more information please contact Maria Nardella at Maria.Nardella@DOH.WA.GOV

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).** DOH is actively working to support ACEs work throughout the state by framing the Public Health Role in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Resilience, Healthy Development, and Life Course Using the 10 Essential Public Health Services
For more information, contact Tory Henderson at tory.henderson@doh.wa.gov
- **Help Me Grow Washington Partnership.** Research is converging on a single, fundamental conclusion: early experiences and interactions with adults shape the developing brain, for better or worse. Since children’s capacities develop at different times, periodic screening can identify developmental concerns. Different types of services can respond to delays and disabilities and help parents set children on a positive early growth and learning path. The Help Me Grow Washington Partnership is moving its work forward through the adoption of a collective impact approach to the Partnership’s historic work in Washington. The Partnership is working to help parents, health providers, and early learning professionals give children the chance to grow, learn, and achieve their full potential. To do this, all children must receive the developmental and autism screenings recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, followed by any necessary development and learning supports.

Partners are building on important recent accomplishments and opportunities to increase awareness of the importance of this work:

- Senate Bill 5317 now gives Medicaid-eligible children access to screens (Bright Futures bill, effective Jan 2016)
- The Washington Early Learning partnership has adopted bold screening goals
- Essentials for Childhood initiative has adopted developmental screening as a key strategy

For additional information, please contact Carol Dean at carol.dean@doh.wa.gov or visit <http://helpmegrowwa.org>.

- **Registered Dietitians.** DOH supports workforce capacity building for Registered Dietitians (RD) working with children with special health care needs (CSHCN). In addition, the department supports Feeding Teams which include a RD through training and networking activities. DOH contracts with the University of Washington to provide initial training for new team members then supports ongoing activities to network and enhance skills throughout the state, specifically looking to build access to RD services in underserved areas. Many of the Feeding Teams work with the Early Intervention centers. With the most recent training, DOH added 13 new members in the east region increasing the total RDs as network members to 215; there are about 21 network teams. Information can be found at: <http://depts.washington.edu/cshcnut/index.html> For additional information, contact Joan Zerzan at joan.zerzan@doh.wa.gov.
- **Essentials for Childhood (EfC) Sets the Course for All Children in Washington State to Thrive in Safe, Stable and Nurturing Relationships and Environments.** In Washington, we take seriously our role as stewards of the next generation, and know that our ability to raise healthy children who will lead tomorrow’s communities requires smart and innovative thinking today. The good news is that developmental science is clear about what children need to thrive. Research suggests that there are things we can do to buffer toxic stress, preventing or reversing its effects. Safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments serve as protective factors are essential for the health and well-being of our children – and we believe every child in Washington should have equal opportunity to thrive. Washington State Essentials for Childhood (EfC) is working toward these changes. A cross-sector, executive level steering committee, led by Secretary of Health John Wiesman and Department of Early Learning Director Ross Hunter, is championing a common agenda to guide the work. Check out our website at essentialsforchildhood.org to learn more about what we’re doing and how you can be involved. For additional information, please contact Marilyn Gisser at marilyn.gisser@doh.wa.gov.
- **Great LINCS (Links to Integrate and Coordinate Services) for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN).** Great LINCS is three year federal grant, currently in its second year. The overall goal of Great LINCS is to integrate systems that work with children with special health care needs (CSHCN) and increase the number of families with CSHCN in Washington who report having a medical home. Grant activities for Year Two include:

 - Provide support for WithinReach to become a state-wide resource for children with special health care needs.
 - Provide support for American Academy of Pediatrics provider trainings around universal developmental screening
 - Provide technical assistance on improving shared plans of care within the Maxillofacial Review Boards
 - Work with state level partners to improve policies that affect the CSHCN population

For additional information, please contact Allison Chee at Allison.Chee@doh.wa.gov.

- **Project LAUNCH Expansion Grant** (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health). The new Project Coordinator for LAUNCH is Sherry Trout (sherrylynn.trout@doh.wa.gov).
- **Family Engagement & Leadership.** Family participation plays an essential role in state Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programs at the Department of Health. Family members volunteer, advise and/or are employed by state Title V MCH, and/or Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) programs and bring unique insight and experience and are prepared to advocate on behalf of MCH. Family participation refers to individuals who are involved in a range of activities that engage families in the planning, development, and evaluation of programs and policies at the community, organizational and policy level. DOH employs a full time Family Engagement Coordinator to provide leadership for inclusion of the family and community perspective in policy and program development, oversight of parent leadership development programs, and to serve as a statewide resource for promoting quality, culturally competent, integrated systems of care for children and youth, including those with special health care needs and their families. For information contact Michelle Hoffman and michelle.hoffman@doh.wa.gov.
- **Home Visiting Partnership.** DOH provides technical assistance, participates on the HV advisory committee, and conducts data analysis and quality assurance work for the Home Visiting programs administered through DEL and THRIVE. For additional information, contact Riley Peters at riley.peters@doh.wa.gov

Thrive Washington (Thrive)

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

- **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! As platinum sponsor of the conference, Thrive will host an evening event. Joining Thrive CEO Sam Whiting in a discussion about making early learning in all 2016 election conversations is Mark Shriver of Save the Children Action Network, Sen. Steve Litzow, and Karen Howard of First Focus.
- **Celebrating the First 5 Years: A Midpoint Report on Washington’s 10-year Early Learning Plan:** The Early Learning Partnership – DEL, OSPI, DOH, DSHS and Thrive -- released a joint publication highlighting its progress on five of the plan’s 36 strategies and the challenges that keep us from helping EVERY child start kindergarten ready to succeed.
http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/communications/docs/ThriveWA_5YrEarlyLearningReport_final_online.pdf
- **FYI – Washington STEM Summit 2015:** On Dec. 1, our partners at Washington STEM will host their annual STEM Summit to bring together a sold-out crowd of state and national STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) thought-leaders, innovators, and champions who are united by a passion to advance excellence, innovation, and equity in

STEM education. A major contribution to STEM education will also be announced.

- **Pay for Success:** Thrive led the coordination of a Symposium about Pay for Success, a performance-based contracting and financing model that Washington state is exploring as a way to support high-quality prevention programs. The Symposium brought in panelists from the White House and other states to talk about what they have learned. Learn more about the Symposium and the two feasibility studies underway in our state: <https://thrivewa.org/payforsuccess/>