



Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) Temporary Licensing Subcommittee of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

Welcome & Virtual Meeting Protocols

DCYF Deputy Director of Community Engagement Deanna Stewart welcomed attendees and walked through virtual meeting protocols.

Introductions and Meeting Agenda Review

DCYF Community Engagement Manager Emily Morgan reviewed the meeting agenda with the group, led a word cloud activity, and initiated introductions.

Introductions to the Fair Start for Kids Act

DCYF Government Affairs Advisor Genevieve Stokes provided an overview of the Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) legislation and creation of the FSKA Temporary Licensing Subcommittee of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC).

[Fair Start for Kids Act and Early Learning Investments Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FSKA legislation states that ELAC will establish a temporary subcommittee to provide feedback and recommendations on improvements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Please share the process used to reflect and ensure race and equity are centered in this work. It is natural for all of to be pulled back to what we have been socialized to do- center whiteness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We hold the racial equity questions in mind and implement that into policies and practices. When working together we ask ourselves if the policy or decision or practices is good for children and families in early learning and educators. We also ask ourselves who might be benefiting more than others and what data or information is missing. ▪ Remind others to look beyond their own program and consider other programs and how decisions are affecting them. We often talk about unintended consequences in this group and frame practice around this. ▪ One of our agreements is being open to messy conversations and holding one another accountable. ○ I appreciate your answer. Puget Sound Educational Services District (ESD) is doing strong race and equity work and working hard to become an anti-racist multicultural agency. Have found that if we do not intentionally stop and reflect we sometimes get pulled back to where we don't want to be. I think it is important to make space for messy conversations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This is a space where it is welcomed to interrupt and have those messy conversations • Part of the bill allowed home providers to have a larger capacity if they meet licensing requirements. How can we better support providers to meet licensing requirements? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eligibility is different for each funding opportunity • Great Opportunity with the Department of Commerce for a maintenance and renovation grant that will help navigate maintenance needs.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a way we can receive a recording of this session? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, we will send out the recording with a follow up email! Thank you for your interest!
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Licensing Division

DCYF Statewide Licensing Administrator, Travis Hansen and DCYF Child Care Licensing Continuous Quality Improvement Manager Aliza Yair, provided an overview of the Licensing Division’s work and connection with the subcommittee.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this the typical size of the group for the state of Washington? Does there need to be more representation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initially there were 65-70 interested. Everyone will remain on the list, but some individuals do come and go. I am hopeful that there will be 30-40 that will remain the core group who regularly attend. I know that there are a few who could not attend today but requested the recording. ○ If there are members who are interested, can they join? ○ Yes, they can email dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov to be added to the list. • I have questions about policies and guidelines, and how those are monitored. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We will be compiling a list of topic-focused conversations towards the end of this meeting.
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Group Purpose and Licensing Meeting Topics

Deanna Stewart walked through the purpose and scope of the FSKA Temporary Licensing Subcommittee, and members had an opportunity to provide feedback on future meeting licensing topics via Jamboard and a ranking activity.

- [Meeting Discussion Question Responses and Feedback](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the checklist? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You can look at the full checklist now, but it is on rotation. All Washington Administrative Code (WAC) are on a checklist for initial license, then a rotating basis over the following years. • For clarification, can we go over what these bullet points reference to give more thorough feedback? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We will go more in depth on all these topics and have presentations at future meetings to explain further. Is there a way that we could maybe do a quick overview about what Inter-Rater Reliability (IRR) is? What about website and portals, what exactly does that reference, because I think that if everybody has a clear understanding about what all these bullet points are, we’re going to be able to give you the best recommendations from our standpoint. ○ Yes, that is a great point. All of the topics will have presentations to go more in depth about what it is, what it means to providers and how it affects providers. • Any ideas that were not on the list? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Having alignment between all agencies is important ○ Unlicensed care is out of control. I know that is hard to monitor with COVID and unsure what the departments role in that is. ○ We pursue unlicensed care as much as we can. We can get people to stop providing care, but then they turn into repeat offenders. When this happens it becomes a criminal matter and that is hard to follow through on. It does not rise to the level of a prosecutor wanting to take the case forward. Are background checks completed on these individuals? ○ They get posted on child care check and have an investigation completed.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ I was told that people should call the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) because they are earning an income and often unreported.○ Some people are not aware of the system and some are undermining the system.○ We need to remember our tribal providers and that sovereignty is important. Would also like a list of acronyms if possible.○ Checklist was top choice because I would like to discuss barriers of people coming in and staying in, based on the rules being extensive and problematic.○ I chose what topics are dealt with on a daily basis.○ I rated based on concerns for unlicensed care - feel this results in providers leaving the field.○ We would like to discuss IRR and providers feeling like they are not being treated properly.○ What would be helpful to know about organizational structure and review process?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ It is about accountability.○ Pre-licensing technical assistance is critical when learning about the licensing process.○ Active communication is very important and should be involved in all the topics. What is the responsibility of DCYF to make sure this is happening?○ Just want to echo that hearing any reasons or specific questions you have about these topics will be helpful in preparing information for you.○ If we are going over the 400+ guidebook (which is on the list) how can we do that in that span of time? There are so many topics that are lengthy.○ I'd like to add universal Pre-Kindergarten as a topic.
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2022 Meeting Review and Next Steps

Participants reviewed the remaining 2022 meeting dates and were asked to provide feedback on meeting times.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The remaining meetings of the year are currently scheduled at 9:00am. The meetings will depend on the topics and how long each topic will need to be covered. Most meetings can be done in two hours if one topic is covered at a time, but this also depends on group interaction.● Will future meetings be recorded? Can we email questions to be addressed in these meetings if we cannot attend?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Yes. Would it be helpful to do a survey to inquire about what times work best for everyone?<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Yes, a survey would be great.▪ Morning meetings can be the most chaotic in childcare. Afternoons are better.● Can we share the survey out with others who may be interested but not here today?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Yes. Would like to see an accelerated process for already licensed providers when opening another facility.● Are you speaking to brand new licenses or those who already have a license facility and adding another one?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We have a center already in existence and are expanding to a new location. It just seems like there should be an accelerated process for those who are duplicating their efforts.○ That makes sense. It brings to mind the Organizational Pilot Program, but we also received funding through FSKA, addressing a more efficient process with multiple site facilities. The Organizational Pilot can address this. Might be helpful to have someone come and present on this.
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Closing Remarks/Adjourn

- [Meeting Discussion Question Responses and Feedback](#)

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next Fair Start for Kids Act Temporary Licensing Subcommittee meeting will be on February 8, 2022.
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