



# Early Learning Advisory Council Executive Session Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2023 – 9:00am to 12:00pm  
Virtual Meeting

## Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

DCYF Community Engagement Manager Eric LaFontaine welcomed attendees, walked through virtual meeting protocols, and initiated introductions.

## Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) Road Show

DCYF Assistant Secretary of Early Learning Nicole Rose presented updates on the Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) progress and plans related to FSKA.

- [FSKA Road Show Presentation](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there any movement to the income being based on Area Medium Income (AMI) instead of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to access health insurance? Staff sometimes turn down raises to ensure they stay eligible or don't qualify even if their wage is a "thriving" one. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ That is a great question and we will follow up with the Washington Health Benefits Exchange.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What is the age range for the infant and early childhood mental health consultant? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is focused on birth to five. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ And why is that? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The infant and early childhood mental health consultants are tied to participation in Early Achievers which is really focused on birth to five. There is recognition in the updated Early Achievers quality recognition process around school-aged care.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Where will the Behavioral Health (BH) consultants be located in Washington state? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The infant and early childhood mental health consultants are hired by and located across the state in our regional Child Care Aware offices.</li> <li>○ We do have the Trauma Informed Care Manager at DCYF. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Has the person already been hired? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, they have been on board for some time now. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I'm looking for examples of how things have been changing based on this professional's recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some of that is resources and supports that are rolling out to providers and we do have the Trauma Informed Care work group. I'm happy to provide follow-up information on that.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Can you clarify where the numbers came from in that "gap" slide? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I will follow up and provide the exact data source.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Could you provide some examples on how funds are supporting inclusive environments for children with developmental delays, disabilities, and behavioral needs in different parts of the state? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ That went out through the Complex Needs Fund and the biggest requests that we saw were resources for staffing. We had to prioritize applications from providers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>in child care deserts, but the biggest we saw were staffing and access to adaptive materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ With the added staffing, is it actually resulting in programs being able to include children with developmental delays, disabilities, and behavioral needs?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We do not have that level of data at this time. The first and second rounds just closed in November and I don't believe we have received reports yet but I will double-check on that.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is there some type of document around the impact of bringing on a trauma-informed care professional?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, we have the Holding Hope report that comes from Child Care Aware. I can also follow up on some of the larger cross-agency work that we're doing. I'm also going to circle back to my team and see how we can get more information about the impacts that we are seeing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Early Childhood Equity Grant: Round 2 Refinements</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Is there any tracking of providers who are providing services to families that have foster children?                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We know the capacity of the provider, but we do not have actual enrollment data at licensed centers or family homes. We don't track to the child level unless they're actually receiving subsidy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• When does the <a href="#">Equity Grant</a> re-open?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Equity Grant is scheduled to open May 10.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• As a resource, here is an overview of new <a href="#">Early Learning Investments</a> that was passed by the legislature in the 2023 session.</li> </ul>
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**Report Development**

DCYF Community Engagement Managers Emily Morgan and Eric LaFontaine led the group through a work session to draft recommendations, define areas of focus and identify what additional information is needed.

- [Report Development Jamboard](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your timeline for posting a survey to social media?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It's not a long process, but can take some extra time with translation services as we do use Survey Monkey.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does it have to be Survey Monkey? Microsoft Forms has a multilingual feature.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will look into this.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• I've been thinking a lot about capacity towards leaders around the state that are doing this advocacy work and have the time to do this work. How are we supporting that infrastructure of local voice and making sure people are getting compensated to be at these tables? How can these leaders be more supported so that there are voices of various different experiences at decision-making tables?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We've been working with the Department of Commerce to create some guidelines and processes for lived experience stipends and we will follow up with a timeline for this work.</li> <li>○ We want to make sure that everyone has a seat at the table and those that are there are properly being compensated for that lived experience in bringing their voice to the conversation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community Engagement Team will reach out to suggested groups for parent input and develop a social media survey translated into multiple languages for distribution.</li> </ul>



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**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

**Closing Remarks/Adjourn**

<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The next ELAC Public Meeting will be on June 6, 2023</li><li>• The next ELAC Executive Session/Report Development will be on July 11, 2023</li></ul>
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**Members in Attendance:** Alexandra Martin-Truesdell, Debbie Carlsen, Enrica Hampton, Isis Lara Fernandez, Kathy Carman, Lois Martin, Michelle Perez, Nancy Spurgeon, Representative Lisa Callan, Samantha Bowen, Samantha Masters, Senator Claire Wilson, Valisa Smith

**Members Absent:**

Aida Rodriguez, Angelica Hernandez, April Shiosaki, Astrid Newell, Carlina Brown-Banks, Catherine Duffy, Christianna Clinton, Claudette Lindquist, Colleen Condon, Debbie Ham, Deborah Sioux Lee, Deeann Puffert, Dr. Nucha Isarowong, Gary Burris, Gray Sterling, Heidi Scott, Jasmin Schmidt, Kathy Goebel, Kathy Yasi, Kelsey Alger, Kimberly Hoover, Luz Gomez, Nigel Lawrence, Olivia Burley, Representative Bob McCaslin, Ryan Guzman, Sheryl Fryberg, Susan Yang, Valerie Arnold