



Early Learning Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2022 – 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

ELAC Executive Committee member Lois Martin welcomed attendees, walked through virtual meeting protocols, and initiated introductions.

Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) Evaluation and Data Update

DCYF Director of the Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability (OIAA) Vickie Ybarra and FSKA Evaluator, Adassa Budrevich-Ryan provided an update on the FSKA Evaluation Plan.

- [FSKA Evaluation Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who was on the team of people that developed this draft Logic Model? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We collected feedback and incorporated input from the FSKA group and also from the October ELAC meeting participants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Often we are presented with ideas but there is not a lot of childcare voice in the drafts. There is room for growth. We want to be part of the design, not just give feedback. • Regarding the removal and expulsion by race and ethnicity, after you measure this data, will there be any analysis as to why? So that not only do we measure yes this occurred, but why did it occur? Is finding out why a part of the process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I'm not certain we have access to the why. If we do not have access, then we might want to go back to the DCYF program to see why this is happening. This is a great question because qualitative data does help our quantitative data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The why is important because some providers aren't trained or don't have adequate staff. We need to look at the whys in case we need greater resources for these facilities so they can do a better job. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I couldn't agree with you more, and and the measurement of those resources, and the extent to which they are available is a part of what we'll be doing as well. • What is this Unknown Category? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unknown means that the race/ethnicity was not reported by the provider when they reported the expulsion in WaCompass. • Is the overall number declining? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This chart does not show that the total number is declining. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I think it would be interesting to see if the number changed during the pandemic due to lower enrollment overall in child care. Also, to compare the proportion of racial groups and change over time. • In 2019, a new Washington Administrative Code (WAC) was implemented for licensed childcare providers with the non-expulsion policy to avoid this problem. But one of the biggest issues is a lack of support, evaluation, mental health for families, children and providers. There should be other funding streams that support providers to have inclusive environments. There should also be outsourced evaluation to get additional supports to avoid expulsions.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It would be helpful to build a mental health resource for providers. Specifically who to contact for evaluation, support systems, and how can we avoid expulsions. There has to be a bigger support system in place. ○ Typical childcare providers are not trained like developmental preschools. We need to make equitable services and support staff to give them the resources to do their best job. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We will look and see if we have data around developmental preschool children. ● The race/ethnicity is provider reported, correct? Does this account for mixed race children? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes it is provider reported. We have standards inside DCYF and OIAA for how we account for children recorded as mixed race children. Multi racial is the largest and fastest increasing ethnic group across the state and national. ● Is this data inclusive of school age child care kids? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, the entire report is inclusive of school age children where we have sufficient data. We hope to break the data down into age groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The services should follow the kids. It shouldn't depend on where the kids are. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You've got children who are being served in other settings with very specific high-end supports to support their needs and then the children come into more generalized environment, where those resources, aren't necessarily following the child, and that could result in some concerns about the child not having their needs, and the and the provider not being supported. ● With two years of COVID, unfortunately the number of children needing additional supports is on the rise.
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you have any questions or additional feedback, feel free to reach out to Vickie Ybarra at vickie.ybarra@dcyf.wa.gov.

Meeting Minutes

Lois Martin led the group in reviewing the October 4 meeting minutes, feedback loop, and the State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates. Members approved all documents.

- [October 4, 2022 meeting minutes.](#)
- [Feedback Loop](#)
- [State Agency/Partner Updates](#)
- [Regional Coalition Updates](#)

Workforce Retention Grant Letter

Lois Martin and Enrica Hampton gave the group an update regarding a draft letter being sent to ELAC members to approve.

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In response to questions and concerns shared by ELAC Members and child care providers regarding the recently awarded Workforce Retention Grant, ELAC drafted a letter to DCYF leadership outlining provider concern and advising on potential solutions. ● One additional thing related to the retention funding is DCYF advertised the amount to providers is \$700 but that doesn't take into account taxes that will be paid. This may cause confusion with providers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additionally, the letter does not address the 15% that can be withheld.
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Once feedback has been received, the final letter will be sent to DCYF leadership on Thursday, December 8.



New DCYF Training Site for Child Care Providers

DCYF Learning Management System Coordinator, Karma Hugo and DCYF Professional Development Coordinator, Marlene White provided an update on the new Learning Management System for early learning and child care providers.

- [Training Site Presentation](#)

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can stay up-to-date with DCYF’s New Training Site through this dedicated webpage. • Has customization already been completed or will that be informed by user testing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That will be informed by user testing. • Providers should be the first group DCYF connects with about a new training site. Why are providers being brought to the table almost at the end of the process? Can you share how long this platform transition has been in the works? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providers will be the next set of users for testing and feedback. We’re going to transition the trainers first. Trainers need to be aware and know what to do before transitioning to the learners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The trainers going first isn't the concern. The concern, for me, is that providers weren't asked what they wanted/needed to inform the design. • Was there any point when providers were asked what they would like to see in an early learning training system? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was a third party evaluation that took place years ago. We had multiple focus groups and hosted public webinars to gather feedback. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Turnover in the field can be high. It would have been nice if more recent outreach had taken place to see what the needs of providers currently are. • From early communication this seemed like it would be a website providers could access at any time but now it sounds like an online platform for State Training And Registry System (STARS) classes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new platform will combine searches for both in person and virtual trainings. Some required trainings will be offered in the new site as well. • Will the new Training Site include all the trainings/supports/application process for those looking to apply to become a Licensed Child Care & Early Learning Provider? (Thinking specifically about the Licensing Online Orientation). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Application to become a licensed childcare provider are not part of the platform. • Who are the trainers? Also, I’m concerned that our system will not be compatible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I’m not sure about compatibility but the new system should address the issue of having trainings in one place. We do see coaches as another user group. • The vendor getting paid and how they feel is less important than impacts on providers. • What if the feedback from providers is clear that the new training plan needs to go back to the drawing board, how will that be handled? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Within the basic shell, we have the capacity to make adaptations on how we use this tool. We are not going live until we’ve conducting the user testing and incorporated feedback.
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please reach out to Karma (karma.hugo@dcyf.wa.gov) or Marlene (marlene.white@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow-up questions.



FSKA Temporary Licensing Subcommittee (TLS) Recommendation Report

Aida Rodriguez presented the TLS Recommendation Report.

- [FSKA TLS Report Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When will the report be finalized and submitted? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It already has and the final copy will be sent out to this group in the follow up email.
Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please reach out to the Community Engagement Team (dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow-up questions.

Closing Remarks/Adjourn

- [Discussion Question Responses](#)

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would hope to see future ELAC meetings designed as more interactive rather than just presentations. • The next Early Learning Advisory Council meeting will be on February 7, 2023.
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Members in Attendance: Debbie Ham, Enrica Hampton, Gary Burris, Heidi Scott, Nancy Spurgeon, Aida Rodriguez, Alexandra Martin-Truesdell, Angie Funaiole, Deborah Lee, Isis Lara Fernandez, Kathy Carman, Lois Martin, Olivia Burley, Ryan Guzman, Samantha Bowen, Samantha Masters, Shereese Rhodes, Valisa Smith

Members Absent: Colleen Condon, Jasmin Schmidt, Maggie Mendoza, McKinley McPheeters, April Shiosaki, Carlina Brown-Banks, Catherine Duffy, Christianna Clinton, Deeann Puffert, Cathy Garland, Rabeeha Ghaffar, Kathy Goebel, Kathy Yasi, Kelsey Vogan, Kimberly Hoover, Lisa Callan, Marina Medrano, Muriel Herrera-Velasquez, Nigel Lawrence, Nucha Isarowong, Page Phillips Strickler, Rep. Bob McCaslin, Sheryl Fryberg, Gray Sterling, Susan Yang, Claire Wilson