



Early Learning Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2021 – 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

Welcome & Virtual Meeting Protocols

DCYF Community Engagement Manager Emily Morgan welcomed attendees, walked through virtual meeting protocols, ELAC’s Purpose, Essential Racial Equity Questions, and Community Agreements.

Introductions & Getting to Know You Activity

ELAC members and Regional Advisors engaged in a getting to know you activity.

Feedback Loop & State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates

Regional Advisor Enrica Hampton led the group in reviewing the Feedback Loop, Se Agency/Partner Updates, Regional Coalition Updates, and provided time for members to ask questions.

- [Feedback Loop](#)
 - [Stakeholder and Community Partner Letter](#)
 - [Summary of Key Updates to WAC 392-172A](#)
 - [Updated CDC Blood Reference Level Document](#)
- [State Agency/Partner Updates](#)
- [Regional Coalition Updates](#)

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm from the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). I don't see our agency listed in the updates but we are forming a workgroup to address Military Family Childcare in Washington State. If anyone is interested in the Military Family Childcare Workgroup, please reach out to me. I'm the Military Spouse Liaison for Washington State: Olivia.Burley@dva.wa.gov. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be sure to include that information in the follow-up email and add VA to future update documents. |
|-------------------|---|

Annual Reflection and new FSKA Report

DCYF Deputy Director of Community Engagement Deanna Stewart and Community Engagement Manager Erin Kerrigan led a discussion on the structure and next steps for the development of the Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) report.

- [2020 Draft ELAC Annual Reflection](#)
- [Annual Reflection and new FSKA Report Feedback](#)

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When we are talking about the voting piece, is that just ELAC members or do we need to conduct the vote over again? It may be good to vote again. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, it is officially for voting members. We will send out a survey to voting members. • Seems like maybe the co-chairs could be part of the work, if they have the capacity. • Did the Community Engagement (CE) team receive full-time equivalent (FTE) as a resource for this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, we did. We are currently on a hiring freeze so have not been able to recruit for that position yet. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be good to have that person join the team as soon as possible to begin this vital part of ELAC’s work. |
| Next Steps/Follow Up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please complete the ELAC Annual Report/FSKA Report survey (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7G7LP3X) at your earliest convenience. |



OIAA Data Share

DCYF Director of the Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability (OIAA) Vickie Ybarra shared data in response to member feedback from the October meeting, as well as provided an overview of ongoing work and next steps.

- [OIAA Data Share Presentation](#)

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the definition of extreme desert that sets it apart from child care desert? How was this definition determined?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Each of the terms are explained and defined on the dashboard found here. This was originally stemmed from the definition of the United States Department of Agriculture on "Food Desert" to the concept of child care desert.• Seems like this is partial data on the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) closures. Many providers have not reported closures.• If there is no licensed childcare, subsidized childcare and Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP)/Head Start programs in a rural area, how would you go about collecting the "supply" needs for that area? For example, Jefferson County 98320, there is none of these programs and no licensed childcare options. How is this area not considered extreme?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ I think you are talking about the supply dashboard. You are correct and that is on licensed child care provider's data and that is what we are using. For need we are using Census data. Census data tells us to what extent are all available parents to the household or caregivers in the workforce. The need and supply data is not connected to the extreme access desert data; it is a different definition. While I understand it is extreme in the local community.• We have the data in continuous measures in order to make it fit in with legislation. We can share any data with you too.• This dashboard is an amazing tool! Will definitely help with advocacy efforts now and down the road as we request more funds from the legislature to support our staff and families.• Is the data for family child care providers called out or is it grouped together with child care center teachers?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We did not separate out licensed family home care and licensed centers. You are not the only one who has asked about that. This is on our list of things to call out, different kinds of child care.• How does DCYF's State of Children compare to the other reports such as the Black Child Development Institute's State of Black Children? They publish that each year nationally and for our state. Do you find that the data matches up or do you look at how they collect data?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The State of Black Children has come up in other conversations we have had. It is something that we are going to look into. So far the data that we have looked through comes from similar places and some of the reports are too high level. We are trying to get down to the county level. We rely heavily on DCYF data and Child Care Aware of Washington data. We would really like to have more qualitative data. We are struggling in finding accurate data that is collected all across the state. If you have thoughts on that, we would love to have any and all of you involved in the State of Children report.• Where can we view this report after the meeting?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ State of the Children can be found here and regional reports are all listed at the bottom of the page. This one has all of our WA Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) reports found here.• Is there anywhere that data on Family Friend & Neighbor care is captured?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We do not have accurate data on this at this time. |
|-------------------|---|



| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to STEM by the number can be found here. • Do the licensed child care closures due to COVID include family child care? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Yes, this does include family child care. |
| Next Steps/Follow Up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dashboard can be found here. • The parent link of all dashboards that we have created can be found here. • Feel free to reach out to Vickie or the OIAA inbox if you have any questions or further feedback at vickie.ybarra@dcyf.wa.gov or oiaa@dcyf.wa.gov. • State of the Children: https://washingtonstem.org/the-state-of-the-children-report-series-from-insight-to-action/ (Regional reports are all listed bottom of the page.) |

General FSKA Updates

DCYF Assistant Secretary of Early Learning Nicole Rose and team provided general FSKA updates.

- [General FSKA Updates Presentation](#)

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many applications are coming in on a daily basis on Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) co-pay? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ We will get that information out to you. • What is the plan for unspent funds? Where are provider grant application information sessions dates and times posted in regards to technical assistance sessions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ We are watching that every month and are looking at those dollars and what to do moving forward. You can request technical assistance for the DCYF Stabilization Grant through the <i>Voices of Tomorrow registration</i> found here and through the <i>Imagine Institute registration</i> found here. • Would love to see this in a regional level as well in the future! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ We will get this information out to the group in January 2022. • Would also like to see data disaggregated to ensure funds are supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) providers. • Thank you for highlighting the need for affordable care and the need for non-standard hour care. How does this translate to increase in compensation for providers? • Is the department considering using Build Back Better (BBB) funds to increase rates to private pay until the cost of quality is completed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The latest version of BBB that I have seen requires states to pay new payment rates based on cost estimation models that include a variety of items. There is likely information we could use from the market rate survey that is almost final to support rates. • Are you also interested in collecting demographics and regional information in the future? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Yes, of course. We can adapt the way these questions are asked in accordance with who this information is going out to. • Is this work in tandem with what the public engagement team is doing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Yes, we have been working together on this work. • After a group takes the time to provide feedback to DCYF (on any issue) it would be nice to hear if any portions of feedback are being adopted/implemented. • Does this support the family support team and the child care licensing team? • I heard recently from a colleague that they wished licensors and Early Achievers coaches had the ability to share webinar information, feedback opportunities, committee meetings, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Yes, we have heard this feedback before. • Can you share how this work is different than what the Community Engagement team does? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ We aren't doing this separate from the Community Engagement team. We are collaborating on this work and this is a way to gain more insight from the program side. |
| Next Steps/Follow Up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey on how are we communicating in general about the Fair Start for Kids Act work: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAYAAJZk5UVUOTZURUVW0EK1SjA4MkY0SDRCTFJaUzJIQy4u |



2022 Work Plan Development

Members participated in a planning session to develop the 2022 work plan.

- [2022 Draft ELAC Work Plan](#)

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <p>Discussion</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Been hearing about certain early learning centers that are hemorrhaging workforce for various reasons and in relation to the vaccination requirements, are there thoughts or resources to offer support to those organizations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That is a great question. We have talked about the workforce crisis internally and the workforce crisis was a crisis before the pandemic for the early learning field. One of the things that the state has tried to do is take a look at some of the federal relief dollars to support them and making sure that centers and homes can use those to stabilize workforce if needed. The dollars that providers have been able to access through grants can be used for retention and recruitment. Beyond the 250 million that has been applied for to date, there is about 200 million or so that has gone out the door in the last couple years to support providers. • Is there somebody that folks can get in touch with to get some advice or find support? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helping to guide people to what supports are in place and we know the supports at this time may not be enough. The substitute pool is available not only as a coverage at release time but to find potential people to find the spots that you have. It is intended to be of support. The substitute pool allows people to get trained to meet the minimum health and safety requirements. Also, you can always reach out to the Managed Education and Registry Information Tool (MERIT) inbox at MERIT@dcyf.wa.gov. This email is a navigation center and you can ask about supports for the workforce and someone will connect you with the right person. • How can we use not this legislative session but maybe next session to push for higher rates so we can move it closer to private pay? Because that is the flipside, we have more families that qualify which is great and they move them out of unlicensed care but then that also means if they were paying private pay it helps the families but then providers are supplementing? How are you looking at that? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rates are always on the top of our minds, and we are doing everything we can to increase rates. The market rate survey is almost ready to be published and that is really the foundation of our rates today. There is a ton of work that we are doing with the Childcare Collaborative Task Force to build out cost base and to understand the cost of care and cost of quality and eventually move to a subsidy rate system based on the cost of care versus a market rate survey. So we have a timeline that takes us out for the next two and a half years to three years to a model that is a little bit more preferred and really ensures that we are paying providers based on the cost of care. |
| <p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share org chart of DCYF early learning for new members • The Community Engagement team will incorporate the feedback from this meeting into the work plan template and will send out in mid-January 2022. |

Closing Remarks/Adjourn

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Early Learning Advisory Council meeting will be on February 1, 2022. |
|------------------------------------|---|