



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Quarterly Meeting

February 1, 2010 . 9:00 to 12:00 . Tye Conference Center

Minutes

ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sue Winn - Family Child Care Provider
Paula Smith - Head of School, University Child Development School
Maria Vera - Parent & Early Learning Expert
James Skucy - Executive Director, Benton Franklin Head Start
Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH - State Health Officer, Department of Health
Charles Earl - Director, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
Lorena Lowell - Child Care Center Director/Owner (Co-Chair)
Jada Rupley - Associate Superintendent (Co-Chair)
Dr. Bette Hyde - Director, Department of Early Learning
Representative Roger Goodman - Washington State House of Representatives
Kelli Bohanon - Director of Early Learning, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Todd McNerney - Parent
Leslie Goldstein - Executive Policy Advisor, Governor's Executive Policy Office
Ann Daley - Executive Director, Higher Education Coordinating Board

ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Nina Auerbach - Chief Executive Officer & President, Thrive-by-Five
Peter Berliner - PRI Makers Network Managing Director, Philanthropy Northwest
Susan Dreyfus - Secretary, Department of Social & Health Services
Representative Larry Haler - Washington State House of Representatives
Amber Havens - Educational Training Partners
Robin Higa - Parent
Senator Claudia Kauffman - Washington State Senate
Senator Curtis King - Washington State Senate
Dr. Ilene Schwartz - Children with Disabilities
Marie Zackuse - Tulalip Tribes of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING (DEL) STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Hamilton - Deputy Director (presented)

Jennifer Jennings-Schaffer - DEL Staff to the Council

Sonali Patel - Senior Policy Advisor (presented)

Sangree Froelicher - Special Assistant to the Director (presented)

Char Goodreau - DEL Staff to the Professional Development Consortium (presented)

OVERALL PURPOSE

The purpose of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) is for representatives from the state's early learning stakeholder communities to provide input and recommendations to the Department of Early Learning (DEL) so that DEL's strategies and actions are well-informed and are broadly supported by parents, early care providers, health/safety experts and interested parties. The Governor holds final authority for policy decisions.

WELCOME - AGENDA REVIEW

Jada Rupley introduced Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer who will be taking over as DEL Staff to Council as Kelli Bohanon steps into her new role of representing OSPI on the Council. Jada then provided a brief overview of the agenda topics.

OPENING REMARKS FROM DEL DIRECTOR, BETTE HYDE

Director Bette Hyde opened the meeting with the following updates

- Kelli Bohanon has accepted a half time position with OSPI as Director of Early Learning and will continue working half time at DEL to help bridge gap for K12 and Early Learning.
- Reported on several important bills that DEL is looking at and noted that Sonali Patel, DEL Senior Policy Advisor would be providing a detailed update.
- Benchmarks have been reviewed and 74% are using them but need to determine how best to capture the other 26% not using them.

DEL REPORT-OUT/UPDATES

Sangree Froelicher provided a summary of the Infant Toddler Think Tank event which took place on December 17, 2009 and was sponsored by DEL, Thrive by Five and the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP). The primary goals of this event were to:

- Gather stakeholder & specialist input to inform & advise future spending of infant toddler funds
- Think creatively about how we invest stimulus funds for infants and toddlers
- Develop ideas in a collaborative environment
- Test-model use of the *Draft Early Learning Plan* & explore the beginnings of an underlying theory of change

Maxine Hayes brought up the issue of these being non-permanent funds and asked what would be done when funding is gone?

Ms. Froelicher explained that it will be considered as the action plan is being developed but also stressed the importance of not building something that cannot be supported.

For more information see handout: Infant Toddler Think Tank Summary

Sonali Patel provided an overview of the status of key early learning bills:

- House Bill 2741/Senate Bill 6593 - Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) Transfer
 - Status - Passed out of House ELCS Committee on January 29; scheduled for executive session in the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee on February 1
- House Bill 3141 - Child Care Subsidies/TANF
 - Status - Hearing in House ELCS Committee on January 29
- House Bill 1329 - Child Care Center Unionization
 - Status - Passed the House on January 27; referred to the Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee
- House Bill 3042 - Child Care Licensing
 - Status - Not voted out of House ELCS Committee
- House Bill 2687 - Home Visiting
 - Status - Passed out of the House ELCS Committee on January 28
- House Bill 2617/Senate Bill 6426 - Boards & Commissions/Council for Children & Families (CCF)
 - Status - Substitute passed out of House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee on January 26 and referred to Ways & Means Committee; Introduced on January 14 in the Senate and referred to Ways & Means Committee
- Senate Bill 6668 - ECEAP Eligibility
 - Status - Scheduled for executive session in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee on February 1
- House Bill 2867/Senate Bill 6517 - (Governor's Request Legislation)
 - Status - Hearings held in House ELCS Committee on January 19 and Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee on January 27
- House Bill 2731
 - Status - Substitute passed out of House ELCS Committee on January 22; Public hearing in House Ways & Means Committee held on January 25
 - Representative Goodman sponsored House Bill 2731 and spoke briefly about its progress. He indicated that the basic concept remains the same regarding education for at risk children correlating with poor school outcome - they do not want to have segregated classroom environments.

The current version of the Bill would make ECEAP a part of basic education and would be publicly funded - by 2018 it would be statewide. He spoke to the importance of

determining eligibility on a child by child basis. Birth to three year olds have been removed from the bill.

- Jada Rupley asked about the provisions for quality.
 - Representative Goodman explained that program standards will be developed through OSPI and DEL.
 - Maxine Hayes thanked him for the leadership thus far and asked that they focus on the science behind risk rather anecdotes.
- House Bill 2431
 - Status - Public hearing in House ELCS Committee held on January 19
 - Senate Bill 6759
 - Status - Public hearing in Senate EL & K-12 Education Committee on January 27

Council Discussion

- Be sure to define funding so program commitments made by legislators can be paid for
- Commended how well our state understands connection between early learning & basic ed.
- Concern expressed for funding for the children in faith-based schools
- The Governor continues to have concerns about having an early learning program in basic ed., especially given the Attorney General's opinion

For more information see handout: 2010 Legislative Update to the Early Learning Advisory Council- February 1, 2010

Bob Hamilton provided an update on Washington's pilot kindergarten readiness assessment known as WaKIDS (Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills) which DEL and OSPI are leading in partnership with Thrive by Five.

- A team has been convened representing a broad array of stakeholders to help inform and design a process for piloting that is culturally appropriate, and links early learning providers, K-12 educators, parents, and communities to ensure smooth transitions from early learning settings to kindergarten and beyond. The pilot phase will begin in fall of 2010. A report is due to the Legislature and Governor no later than January 15, 2011. They will make decisions about whether and how to move forward with a kindergarten readiness process in our state
- A request for proposals will be issued in April for an entity to design and train on a kindergarten inventory tool or tools.
- DEL and OSPI are inviting Washington school districts to determine which ones would be interested in voluntary participation in the pilot.

Council Discussion

- Importance of collaboration on this issue between DEL & OSPI
- Need tribal representation in the sample (Bob noted representation on the advisory council)
- This is one of the most important things that can be done to prepare children

For more information see handout: Washington Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) - Fast Facts about Washington's Pilot Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Char Goodreau provided an update on the work of the Professional Development Consortium (PDC).

- The PD Consortium's final recommendations are due by December 31, 2010. The PD Consortium was initially convened by DEL and the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) in 2008 in response to the Early Learning Partnership Resolution between DEL, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Thrive by Five Washington. A sub-group of ELAC, the PD Consortium was charged with developing an integrated statewide system of professional development that prepares and supports educators and caregivers in offering rich early learning environments that help prepare children for school.
- Three work groups are currently meeting in conjunction with the large group meetings:
 - **Professional Standards Work Group**
 - Progress: The group has reviewed existing Core Competencies and Core Knowledge Areas from various states using the *Criteria for State Selection* to guide the selection process. The states reviewed included Kansas and Missouri, Illinois, Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, and New York. The Professional Standards work group selected competencies from Kansas and Missouri and Ohio to present to the PD Consortium for consideration.
 - Next Steps: Although the PDC determined that the *Kansas/Missouri Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals* most closely aligns with Washington's goals and values for early learning professionals, one important component is missing from the document: comprehensive competencies specific to those working with infants and toddlers. Creating competencies specific to professionals working with infants and toddlers is a priority for the PD Consortium. These will be developed using national research, best practice as defined by early learning experts and existing state examples that align with PD Consortium priorities.
 - Other areas to be addressed include; development cultural competency, inclusion and special needs; alignment with Washington licensing standards; and alignment with higher education.
 - **Mapping and Gap Analysis Work Group**
 - Progress: In the initial phase, which will be completed by December 31, 2009, the work group is gathering information on existing professional development resources for early learning and afterschool professionals, which include:
 - Next Steps: In early 2010, the work group will begin identifying the strengths and gaps in our current system. Members plan to provide draft recommendations on how to strengthen our existing professional development system to the full PD Consortium by March 2010.
 - **Communications and Connections Work Group**
 - Progress: In November, the work group provided a status report to ELAC and submitted recommendations to the December 1st Drafting Team and the Early Learning Plan Steering Committee.

- Next Steps: Currently, the work group is developing communication materials about the PDC's work and a message about the PDC's work related to core competencies.
- Next Steps/Issues to Be Addressed by the PD Consortium
 - Developing recommendations for preparing professionals who serve children with special needs and addressing the needs of English language learners - February 1, 2010
 - Initiation of the *Career Pathways and Articulation Work Group* - February 1, 2010
 - Regenerate the *Compensation and Incentives to Support Professional Growth Work Group* - March 1, 2010
 - Community feedback and review of completed products - March 1, 2010
 - Completion of Core Competencies and Core Knowledge Areas - March 31, 2010
 - Developing an outline for qualifications, credentials and standards - April 1, 2010

For more information see handout: Professional Development Consortium Update to the Governor and Legislature December 31, 2009

Kelli Bohanon provided a brief update on the status of the State Advisory Council grant application.

- Activities To-Date
 - DEL working with consultant team to develop application
 - Convened State Advisory Council (SAC) Task Force to provide expertise and input
 - Convening subcommittee of SAC Task Force to develop three-year plan for activities
 - Building an application that aligns and supports the Early Learning Plan
 - Begin to work with National Governors Association (NGA) on Technical Assistance efforts
 - Plan to submit: February 2010
- Key Focus Areas for Washington
 - Governance
 - Statewide/Local/Regional
 - Coordination/Collaboration
 - Early Learning Plan integration
 - Build on existing ELAC
 - Infants and Toddlers
 - Professional Development
 - Systems Initiatives (policy, finance, indicators)
 - Early Learning and Development Benchmarks
- Kelli introduced Chris Fidler, of Anthem Grant and Advocacy, who went over the Biographical Sketch form with the members and said that he would forward the form to them electronically. He added that the form needed to be completed by Friday, February 5.

For more information see handout: DEL Update to the Early Learning Advisory Council- State Advisory Council application- February 1, 2010

Director Bette Hyde provided an update on the EL Plan noting that the Governor has read the plan and thank you letters have been sent to those that participated.

- Proposed Early Learning Plan Timeline (Modified)
 - October 26 to November 11, 2009 - Public input on draft outcomes and strategies
 - December 1, 2009 to April 16, 2010 - Targeted statewide outreach on draft plan

- April 16 to May 31, 2010 - Analysis of feedback, decision-making, write draft #2
- June 2010 - Production, distribution of Early Learning Plan
- Statewide Outreach on Draft Plan
 - Public input via survey, community meetings
 - Targeted outreach to diverse communities
 - Convene experts to address key issues
 - Governance: Who implements pieces of the plan
 - Sequencing: How to prioritize implementation of the plan
 - Financing: How to align funding for the plan
 - Indicators: How to measure progress in reducing/eliminating the preparation gap
- Director Hyde conveyed the need for the process to slow down, to have more conversations, not just emails and surveys, and conversations should include non-traditional audiences.
- Director Hyde reminded everyone that if they would like her or Nina Auerbach to speak to their groups to let them know.

Council Discussion

- Needs to be “Our Plan” so everyone sees and hears their voices
- Agreement with a bridge between primary participants/organizations and “non-traditional audiences”
- Suggested coordination of an update/action plan so goals are accomplished

For more information see handout: Update to the Early Learning Advisory Council- Draft Early Learning Plan- February 1, 2010

EARLY LEARNING PLAN TIMELINE

- Leslie Goldstein moved to postpone the adoption of the Early Learning Plan until June and have regularly scheduled updates.
- Maxine Hayes seconded.
- Lorena Lowell suggested postponing the April ELAC meeting to the last two weeks of May to offer time for review.
 - Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer will send out a Meeting Wizard to determine best date.
- Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jacki Haight - Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe

- Ms. Haight expressed thanks for Maxine Hayes comments regarding the inclusion of Tribes. She indicated that she was pleased to hear that DEL is moving forward to obtain stimulus dollars. She raised the issue of needing to work with communities that do not currently have ECEAP if it

does become part of basic ed. She asked who the Governor nominated to move forward in the application process to become a Head Start Center of Excellence.

- Kelli responded that Denise Louie, Lower Columbia College and Puget Sound ESD have been selected.

Ms. Haight asked about Joint Resolution progress reports.

- Director Hyde indicated that these reports have been going to the Thrive by Five board but could be shared at the next ELAC meeting.

Steve Olson - Thurston County Childhood Coalition

- Mr. Olson commented that the Thurston County Early Childhood Coalition would like to see coalition representation on ELAC. He spoke in favor of a more mention compensation in the work of the PDC, saying that this is a bottom line issue.

CLOSING REMARKS

Lorena asked that discussion about coalitions be on the next agenda.

She then thanked the council and audience for their participation.