

## Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Quarterly Meeting

December 12, 2011 . 9:00 to 3:00 . Lacey Community Center

# Minutes

### ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nina Auerbach – Chief Executive Officer & President, Thrive by Five Washington  
Bianca Bailey – Parent  
John Bancroft – Columbia City Consulting  
Don Bennett – Executive Director, Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Bob Butts – Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Kathy Goebel *on behalf of* Charles Earl – State Board for Community & Technical Colleges  
Representative Roger Goodman – Washington State House of Representatives  
Dr. Bette Hyde – Director, Department of Early Learning  
Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer – Project Manager, HSSCO, Department of Early Learning  
Cynthia Juarez – Early Learning Director, ESD 105  
Lois Martin – Director, Community Day Center for Children, Inc.  
Sandy Nelson – Assistant Superintendent, Early Learning, ESD 113  
Mary Perkins – Early Childhood Consultant  
Paula Smith – Head of School, University Child Development School  
Jeromy Sullivan – Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe Chairman  
Sue Winn – Family Child Care Provider

### ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Jody Becker-Green – Senior Director, Department of Social & Health Services  
Leslie Goldstein – Executive Policy Advisor, Governor’s Executive Policy Office  
Representative Larry Haler – Washington State House of Representatives  
Senator Nick Harper – Washington State Senate  
Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH – State Health Officer, Department of Health  
Tafra Jones – Parent & Parent Advisory Group Member, Department of Early Learning  
VACANT – Washington State Senate

### Opening Remarks from DEL Director

- DEL Director Bette Hyde welcomed everyone including two of ELAC’s newest members, Jeromy Sullivan of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe and Bob Butts from Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- She mentioned that two ELAC members were featured in the [November](#) & [December](#) DEL newsletter, Maxine Hayes and Nina Auerbach.

- DEL is still waiting to hear news on the Race to the Top application.

## Department of Early Learning (DEL) Updates

- Early Learning Guidelines Update

Bette Hyde & Sue Winn provided a brief update on progress of the Guidelines.

- The current public outreach will wrap up before the holidays and another one will take place in January.
- The Guidelines have a much simpler language for both parents and teachers to comprehend.
- This process has been long but will be worth the time and effort put into it.

- WaKIDS Update

Bob Hamilton, DEL Deputy Director, provided an update on the work that has been going on with implementation of WaKIDS.

- DEL, OSPI, Thrive by Five WA, and the ESDs have been working hard on implementing and supporting this program over the last year.
- According to pilot results, 75% of students are deficient in one or more of the learning measures. Unsure of why that is; newness to teachers, reliability of teacher observation practices and/or training issues. The WaKIDS program is hoping to address these issues on the front end, not the back end.
- Last year's pilot had 3,000 students participating. This year there are 11,000.
- A state goal is to use similar instrumentation for the ECEAP assessment in order to align the entire state.
- A handout titled "[WaKIDS Activities Planned in Response to Fall 2011 Implementation Feedback](#)" was provided.

- Legislative/State Budget Update

Amy Blondin, DEL Government and Community Relations Manager, provided an overview of the proposed budget cuts to DEL in this Legislative session.

- Proposed Cuts Include:
  - \$950k in administrative costs
  - \$2 million in Seasonal Care Administration, direct service funds will not be cut
  - A \$1.27 million cut with Child Care Resource and Referral, which would eliminate our work with them
  - Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care Training is to be eliminated
  - \$300k of the Reach Out and Read program, which would eliminate all State funding for this program promoting early literacy
  - \$50 million towards the Working Connections Childcare program. However, if the voters were to approve the Governor's proposed tax increase of ½ a cent, then \$50 million would not be cut from this program.
- A special session began on November 28 and there is no sign that there will be an agreement before adjourning later this week. They will come back in January to begin their regular session.
- A handout titled "[DEL Supplemental Budget Recommended Changes](#)" was provided.

*Discussion:* Lois Martin referred to the bottom of the handout noting that it looks like there will be a rollover of approximately \$6.4 million into the next biennium. Will those dollars help eliminate some of these proposed cuts? Linda Shea stated that no, the rollover dollars will not eliminate the cuts but could help them not be as drastic. Lois also asked what DEL is doing to assist the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to make sure that seasonal childcare

does not fall apart this year? Amy responded by agreeing that the transition from DEL to DSHS last year did not go well. We are currently working together on this. DSHS will also be receiving cultural competency training so they understand the needs of the clients. Lois asked if there will be a group set up to work on this transition. Bette replied no, not at this time. We are still working out the details.

- Updates from other State Agencies/Partners

- Bob Butts – Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) provided an update for OSPI.
  - WaKIDS is moving forward, and OSPI will be requiring all state funded full day kindergarten programs to participate this year.
  - Handout titled “[Development of a Washington State PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Ready Schools Action Plan](#)” was referenced. Currently, OSPI is leading an effort to develop a statewide action plan that focuses on PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> alignment and the critical transition from early learning to the K-12 system.

*Discussion:* Lois Martin asked if workgroup members have been selected yet. If not, are you looking at teachers from different levels of education and background? Bob responded, not yet but we are working very closely with the Association of Washington School Principals.

- Lowest Jefferson – Department of Health (DOH) provided an update for DOH.
  - Overall there is a proposed budget cut of \$14.5 million to DOH.
    - \$2.6 million to Maternal Child Health, which includes oral and neural health.
    - \$1.8 million to Family Planning.
    - \$1.7 million to the Tobacco Quitline.

*Discussion:* Bette Hyde asked if any of these cuts would be part of the Governor’s buy back. Lowest was not sure at this time but would work on finding that information out.

- Nina Auerbach – President and CEO, Thrive by Five Washington provided an update for Thrive by Five Washington.
  - Along with DEL, Thrive turned 5 years old this year. Together the two agencies developed a [5-year anniversary timeline publication](#).
  - Thrive has three core initiatives; Home Visiting, Love. Talk. Play., and Partnerships and Mobilization.
    - Home Visiting
      - Participated in a training program using parents as teachers. There was much participation, more than I would have imagined.
    - Love. Talk. Play.
      - Last week we launched an advisory group with a diverse group of stakeholders. Working alongside the 10 coalitions from around the state we want to make sure we are reaching all families including those hardest to reach.
    - Partnerships and Mobilization
      - This is our role in working with and supporting capacity-building of regional/local early learning coalitions. We recently awarded Community Momentum grants that support the coalitions in

focusing on systems-building work. The Community Momentum grants also support coalitions in strengthening the early learning collaboration component of WaKIDS (funded by DEL), which will focus on bringing early learning providers and teachers together to collaborate on the WaKIDS process.

### **6759 Preschool Technical Work Group Report/Presentation**

- Bob Butts and Joyce Kilmer provided a report and an [Early Learning Technical Workgroup presentation](#) on Senate Bill 6759. They referenced two handouts that were provided in the council packets;
  - [Washington Preschool Program: Increasing Access and Outcomes for Children](#)
  - [SB 6759 Early Learning Workgroup Recommendations](#)

*Public Discussion:* Representative Roger Goodman and Bea Kelleigh facilitated the discussion and recommendation portion of Senate Bill 6759. Sheriff Salisbury of Mason County shared his experience working with children who were not prepared for school at an early age, noting his support of Birth to Three program. He went on to add “If we don’t spend the money up front to ensure early learning starts at birth, in the long run you pay me a lot more money to keep them locked up.” He thanked everyone who worked on this bill and that he is in support of SB 6759. Sarah Francis of Moms Rising also stated her support of 6759. She brought a handout with examples of stories about local Washington families in need of quality preschools. Representative Goodman commented that this is not a welfare program and all kids deserve the same opportunity without regard to income. Leslie Dozono of the Children’s Alliance added her support of the bill but would also like ELAC to think about creating a subcommittee to hold future conversations in regards to funding services for Birth to Three. Katy Warren from the Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP stated that she definitely sees the benefit in regards to the Head Start and Early Head Start programs and supports 6759.

*Council Discussion and Recommendations:* With majority of the council present, there was a long discussion about the three options regarding ELAC’s recommendations to the Quality Education Council. The three recommendation choices were:

1. Recommend the full workgroup recommendations to the Legislature;
2. Recommend the work group recommendations with some changes; or
3. Take no action at this time to recommend that the Legislature adopt a new preschool program.

After an extensive conversation between ELAC members, it was agreed upon to take three separate votes from the council; (1) vote on which recommendation choice, (2) vote on the Birth-3 addition to the letter, and (3) vote on the Bachelor of Arts recommendations.

Bea asked the council to vote with a thumbs up or down. The first item to vote on was which recommendation to move forward with. After going through each recommendation, it was unanimous with 13 members voting for recommendation #2 – “Recommend the work group recommendations with some changes.” The second item to vote on was a proposal to insert an additional element to the QEC recommendations regarding birth to three services. ELAC would recommend to the QEC that they adopt the 6759 report recommendations but add an element that would direct DEL and ELAC to form a subcommittee to acknowledge the importance of birth to three services as a critical component of a Birth through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade continuum. The vote was unanimous with 13 members voting. The last and final change to ELAC’s recommendations to the QEC was in regards to the Bachelor of Arts degree requirement cited in the 6759 report.

13 members unanimously voted to add that the Bachelor of Arts requirement outlined in the 6759 report be phased-in overtime (with a phase-in timeline being determined at a later date).

### **The Road to an Early Learning System**

- Kelli Bohanon, DEL, and Molly Boyajian, Thrive by Five Washington, gave a [presentation on The Road to an Early Learning System](#).

### **Washington State and Local Coordination Project: [Purpose, Parameters and Work Plan](#)**

- John Howell, Cedar River Group, and Bea Kelleigh, Dovetailing, facilitated a council discussion regarding the process to create a state and local coordination structure, and to start the conversation with ELAC to develop a common understanding of the project, purposes, context and parameters.
  - Three work plan recommendations
    - Help state in building a truly coordinated system and continuum of services,
    - Creating alignment and accountability across sectors, funding streams, and programs – handout of Strategy #34 from the Early Learning Plan (ELP),
    - Provide consistent opportunity for local and state perspective to perform activities.
  - Six areas to define and explain the roles for state-local involvement
    - A. Coordination System Components
      1. Assessment of needs – children, family, resources. Role of state and role of local.
      2. Goals and strategies – How to establish a set of goals for local/regional and state to coordinate a system.
      3. Standards and guidelines – Ensure local/regional programs have access to these and access to training opportunities to make sure they are used effectively. If the role of the state is overarching, then what is the role of local?
      4. Accountability for outcomes (fiscal, child outcomes & data systems) – Outcomes-monitored and reported on for both? What data collection for both?
      5. Education and awareness – What roles are played in educating the public and the policy makers?
      6. Leveraging and increasing investments – What roles do we play in raising resources and coordinating funding? We need to make sure funding is aligned.

*Discussion:* Sue Winn commented that the goal is to be a two-way street. John Howell agreed that we need to make sure we are sending the same information out to all the regions, etc. He also asked for input on how to sustain all of this work over time.

- Kelli Bohanon, DEL, explained the project structure of Cedar River Group and the role ELAC will play in that.
  - We have learned from experience that it is important to have a solid planning structure in place for efforts like these (similar to the ELP and the EL Guidelines processes).
  - Strategy #34 from the ELP sets the stage for this work in moving forward. #34 is one of the 11 Joint Resolution Action Plan strategies for 2011 and DEL and Thrive are the lead roles in moving this strategy forward.
  - The planning structure will include: a staff work group (that includes DEL, TB5 and OSPI and will serve as the key working group for the project); a Steering Committee (that will serve as a subcommittee of ELAC and will develop key recommendations for the

project); and the Joint Resolution Partnership (OSPI, DEL and TB5) will serve as final decision making body on key decisions for the project.

- Bea Kelleigh followed up with a discussion in regards to forming the steering committee. She provided a handout titled "[Desired Expertise and Representation](#)," which included multiple areas to consider when selecting these committee members. She also noted that there should be an equal mix of different age groups. Bea asked the council for their recommendations of missing groups or persons.

*Discussion:* John Bancroft would like to see the representation of statewide advocacy groups. Paula Smith would like to include the Washington Federation of Independent Schools. Bette commented that she did not see any elected officials on the list and wondered if the reason behind that was due to ELAC having them a few already appointed to ELAC. She would also like to add United Way. Sue added that we could still add local/regional elected officials to the list. Bea asked if there were any members at this time that would like to be on the steering committee. Bianca Bailey, Sue Winn and Lois Martin all volunteered. Sandy Nelson showed concern with the length of the list and asked if there is a possibility that there could be a person filling multiple roles on this committee. Bea confirmed that yes, that is would be ideal. A few ELAC members would help develop a list of possible candidates, that list would then be forwarded to the JRP for input. John Howell added that this committee will consist of approximately 20-30 members and will begin work in January 2012. They will meet every other month for about 1 ½ to 2 hours either in person or via teleconference. Molly Boyajian commented that Thrive intends on talking with all ten local regions and asking for volunteers to represent their communities. Sue asked if it were possible to send around a list now in order to write down some suggested names of possible candidates. Bea mentioned that an email will also be sent out to the council asking for those that would like to ask permission before suggesting someone's name, etc.

- John Howell continued the presentation/discussion with information regarding the upcoming Stakeholder Interviews.

B. Topics for stakeholder interviews

1. State-Local Coordination – Mechanisms that are working well?
2. Hopes and aspirations – Improved coordination
3. Fears, gaps and challenges – What is working well and what is not working so well?
4. Data and indicators – That inform and guide your work? What kind of data are you using, what kind of data would you like to be using?
5. Processes or efforts – What can be improved by state-local coordination?

*Discussion:* John opened up the discussion by asking what else we should be exploring as we go out across the state. John B. showed concern with these specific questions. He mentioned that the stakeholders might not come up with what's working and what's not working for them if they are asked these specific questions alone. John H. suggested giving them some lead in information to give them some background prior to the interview. We want this to be meaningful to them and also to us. He also added that some of these interviews would be with small groups not exclusively individuals. Bob Butts added the question, what sort of barriers or frustrations do you have and what can be done at the local/regional level as well as at the state level? Lois Martin added, what is working well or what worked well in the past that we are no longer doing? Sue asked how many interviews are expected. John H. replied in the 20's range.

- Bea Kelleigh brought this section of the meeting to a close by presenting an [early learning system graphic](#) that helped provide additional pictorial explanation of the Road/Highway reference made earlier by Molly Boyajian and Kelli Bohanon.

*Discussion:* Sandy Nelson would like to see some overpasses added to the highway linking to the JRP. Bea clarified that this graphic is designed to represent what is already here today, not where we are going. Bette suggested that if this is to represent today then there should be specific separation of the state and local pieces. Bob B. suggested graphically showing different programs and how they are connected. Bea asked for a few more member volunteers that might be interested in providing input on items such as the steering committee composition and the stakeholder interview process. This would involve one or two conference calls and/or meetings to discuss materials and offer suggestions between now and when the State and Local Coordination Project steering committee is established. Lois Martin, Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer, Paula Smith, and Sandy Nelson all volunteered.

#### **Public Comment**

- Jacki Haight of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe commented that she thought the language behind this work moving forward is confusing but understands that it is still in its initial stages but is concerned about having these conversations at the coalition level right now. She also mentioned that the highway analogy bothered her. She suggested a graphic with smaller, rural, paths like a garden. Showing a highway feels like we are losing sight of the communities we are trying to connect with. Jacki also noted that on this particular graphic there is no tribal representation.

#### **Closing Remarks**

- Appreciation was extended to the Council and to members of the public.
- The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2011 at the Lacey Community Center from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.