

## Early Learning Plan Community Outreach Meeting Summary

### Sequim

*Note: This is intended as a high-level “snapshot” of the conversation from the meeting. More detailed information was captured at the meeting and will be incorporated into the planning process.*

**Monday, November 9**

**5 to 6:30 p.m.**

Attending: Molly Boyajian, Thrive by Five Washington

- Parents need support to go to work and school—if not, they will get stuck in dead-end jobs that don’t provide a living wage
- Middle-class families are squeezed—can’t afford quality care but aren’t eligible to receive services or support
- Why universal preschool? Shouldn’t we make sure the most at-risk kids get what they need before we start doing stuff for all kids?
- Rural communities have a hard time competing for private funding—need state coordination
- Pilots are concerning—they make building a system really difficult....almost impossible
- Grants and one-time funding are also challenging
- If we decide on universal preschool, will there be flexibility for local communities to actually make it work?
- We need to rally the business community so they support this effort
- Rural communities don’t have access to large businesses to solicit for support—need state coordination to spread private investment evenly
- What is the purpose of the kindergarten readiness assessment pilot?
- What are we going to be measuring and how will we measure it?
- There needs to be a safety net for special ed (K-12 concept) but for birth to 5
- Young children and families in rural communities often never access services or support because transportation is such a problem
- We need to raise the boat for all kids, but realize that many kids don’t even have a boat to raise—we really need to start there
- Needs of rural families have increased—meth, nutrition, obesity, etc.
- We need to address the subsidy rate and the system overall—it isn’t working
- If we do universal preschool, we should base it on ECEAP, a program we know works!
- Health insurance for all—helps the child care profession retain the work force
- We need to look at how we treat child care providers—compensation, professional development, incentives, etc
- Would like better coordination of the local coalitions and better state/local connections