

Updates from the Head Start State Collaboration Office

December 2011



The HSSCO in the Department of Early Learning helps to develop and maintain state and local partnerships that benefit low-income children and families and works to coordinate federal, state and local policy to help unify the early care and education system in Washington. This newsletter provides updates on Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) projects and other relevant information and opportunities to participate in state-level activities and events.

Early Learning Guidelines

DEL and our partners are revising the draft Early Learning and Development Guidelines based on comments we received during the public comment period, which ran from mid September through the end of October. We heard from 382 people, including 180 individual comments and 202 participants in 13 group meetings. We would like to thank the many of you who participated in this process. In order to fully address the comments, the Redesign Workgroup has pushed back the publication timeline by about a month. The revised draft is now scheduled to be released for final public review in early January.

ECEAP Child Assessment Tool

In October, DEL issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to choose and implement a statewide, observation-based, multi-domain child assessment tool to assess the development of three- and four-year-old children in ECEAP or its successor program. Three vendors submitted proposals. A review team of seven people from various backgrounds scored each proposal and chose Teaching Strategies GOLD as the apparent successful bidder. DEL has not yet determined the phase-in plan for the ECEAP child assessment, but anticipates training for teachers and administrators on the new assessment will begin in the Spring 2012 and Fall 2012. Teaching Strategies Gold is the tool used for Washington's kindergarten assessment process (WaKIDS), making this a great opportunity for improved PreK-3rd alignment.

DEL Can Help You Find Eligible Children for ECEAP, Head Start services

Annually, DEL provides ECEAP contractors and Head Start grantees with names and addresses of DSHS client families with children who may be eligible for services. In previous years, the HSSCO and ECEAP state office had separate contracting procedures for providing this information, even though the client data was the same. Starting this year, DEL will be issuing a single non-expiring contract to all Head Start grantees and ECEAP contractors. Programs with both Head Start and ECEAP will only need one DEL contract. We will contact you soon with the finalized contracts. In the meantime, if you are interested in receiving this data:

- Send the [Request for Confidential Client Information form](#) to DEL by February 1.
- Send DEL a signed [nondisclosure form](#) for each person who will have access to this confidential information.

Provide Input to DEL on Child Care Center Rules for Lice and Nits

DEL wants to know what you think about a current rule that requires licensed child care centers to exclude children or staff who have lice or nits. The rule, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) [170-295-3030](#), applies only to DEL-licensed child care centers and school-age center programs. New family home child care rules do not require the provider to exclude children, staff or the provider's family members who have lice or nits.

DEL has agreed to review the rule following a public petition requesting its removal from the WAC. DEL wants to know what people think about this issue before moving ahead.

For more information visit: www.del.wa.gov/laws/development/lice.aspx

Submit your comments **by January 31, 2012**:

- Online: [DEL Rules Comment webpage](#)
- Email: Rules@del.wa.gov

ELAC Meetings

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) meetings. Agenda items generally include updates from DEL, updates from other state agencies and partners, council discussions and recommendation sessions, presentations on statewide early learning projects, and a public input session. Minutes from previous meeting are available: www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/previous.aspx.

In 2012, the council will meet from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the following dates:

- Feb 27th
- Apr 23rd
- Jun 25th
- Sep 17th
- Dec 3rd

The locations for these meetings are TBD. The council is planning to rotate the meetings to various sites across the state to make them more accessible for those outside the Puget Sound region.

For more information:

- Visit: www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/Default.aspx
- Email: del.elac@del.wa.gov

Training Provided by the UCLA Health Care Institute

- April 16-17 in Nashville, TN

The UCLA Health Care Institute (HCI), as part of the OHS National Center on Health, is offering training for Head Start programs during NHSA's 39th Annual Head Start Conference. Programs will learn about ways to strengthen their managerial capacity in order to provide more effective health education and prevention services to children and families. This Train-the-Trainer session will include skill-building, such as project management, staff and parent motivation, and community relations, for managers.

Application packets are attached to the newsletter distribution email.

- For a copy of the application packet, contact Kaelyn.bristol@del.wa.gov.
- For more information, visit www.anderson.ucla.edu/x682.xml , or contact:

- Carol Wang: carol.wang@anderson.ucla.edu or (310) 206-1283
- Trisha Wright: trisha-wright@showmeaction.org or (573) 443-8706 ext. 1092

Strengthening Families Leadership Summit

- June 22-24 in Arlington, VA

Registration is open for the national Strengthening Families Leadership Summit. Community leaders, parents, policymakers, federal and national partners and professionals from across child- and family-serving fields will join together at the third national event. The summit will focus on ways to continue advancing this breakthrough strategy for promoting the optimal development for children and preventing child neglect and abuse.

- For more information or to register, visit: www.cvent.com/events/strengthening-families-2011-leadership-summit/event-summary-5855b72504054f89b86eba6d7ad7d450.aspx

Other News

Catch up on DEL Updates at:

<http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/communications/#updates>

Contact Information

If you have suggestions for future newsletter topics or feedback/questions regarding any of the HSSCO's activities, please send those thoughts to Kaelyn Bristol at (360) 725-3517 or Kaelyn.bristol@del.wa.gov. We would love to hear from you.