

Indian Policy Early Learning (IPEL) Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2015 – Girl Scouts Center

Attendees:

Aurea Nicolet – Region X
Bette Hyde – DEL
Caitlin Jensen – DEL
Deanna Stewart – DEL
Evette Jasper – DEL
Jaclyn Haight – Port Gamble
Jeanne Dengate – Tulalip
Jessica Payne – Jamestown
Kim Kettel – Jamestown
Lynne Shanafelt – DEL
Marcy Maki – Chehalis
Matt Judge – DEL

Nicolette Roe – Highline Schools
Patty Eningowuk – Suquamish
Sally Brownsfield – Squaxin
Sara Ortiz – Highline Schools
Stefanie Jones – Samish
Teri Nelson – Tulalip
Whitney Devlin – Cowlitz
Agda Burchard - Region X
Rebecca Kreth – Puget Sound ESD
Justin Montermini – DEL
Joey Pelgrim – Leschi

Welcome, announcements, comment for the good of the order

- Bette Hyde welcomed everyone and all introduced themselves.
- Welcoming prayer provided by Teri Nelson
- Meeting was officially called to order by Patty Eningowuk at 9:45a.m.
 - The meeting agenda was presented and approved with a few additions:
 - Request was made to add the topic of Background Checks and Bylaws
 - Reviewed Follow Up items from last meeting minutes.
 - There was a for the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) meeting dates:
 - June 2, 2015 at the Girl Scouts Center in Dupont
 - August 10, 2015, Location TBD
 - October 6, 2015, Location TBD
 - December 1, 2015, Location TBD
 - Reviewed the February minutes and requested to continue with that format.

Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A motion passed to approve the agenda with the additions.▪ A motion passed to approve the February 24, 2015 meeting minutes.

DEL Update

Legislative session – Justin Montermini

- The Early Start bill is continuing to move forward as we near the end of session.

Discussion
<p>There are only 10 days left of session. The bill is scheduled to be voted on early next week however the large budget of over \$100 million will push us into special session. The tribal liaison stand-alone bill no longer exists due to the budget listed in it ended up being too big legislators to handle. The liaison piece is still under discussion and it looks like, for the moment, it is called out in both the house and the senate budget. However, as you know, things can change every minute of every day. This bill should pass to the Governor next week. Then he</p>

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will have 21 days to review and approve it.

- Within the bill there were a number of concerns that were raised:
 - Will tribes have an option to participate in Early Achievers (EA)? If they do not participate will this cause them to lose Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidies?
 - The language, as it is written now (*If the tribe is federally recognized then they shall participate in the EA program*), can be perceived a number of ways but you can still receive those subsidies. There is also a phase in time over the next few years.
 - What is the dollar amount of WCCC subsidies that goes to the tribes?
 - We are not sure on this but can get this out to you.
 - We are already heavily regulated and EA just seems to add more to our plate. There should be more of a seamless approach with all the bodies that oversee us.
 - There is a study currently being done to fix problems with the EA model and should be done by this June, (Note: later learned this is December, 2015). It is the legislators' intent to expect the best for all children but there are worries in the details. Since we are so close to the bill passing to the governor, if you target this bill you should probably go directly to the governor's office so they are aware and can address specific lines within the bill.
- This is similar to the work going on within K12 right now, how do we implement EA in a culturally sensitive way. Being a part of the front end provides a great opportunity for us to do it right from the beginning. It would be great to get that language from K12 and embed it into this bill, even adding it to the letter to the Governor's office or to conversations we have directly with them.
- The Committee agreed that writing a letter from the IPEL would be a great start in addressing the concerns of the tribes regarding some of the current language in the Early Start bill. Patty Eningowuk and Jacki Haight will work together to draft the letter.

There was reference to Randy Dorn's, Superintendent of Public Instruction, [Complete Plan to Fully Fund Basic Education for All Students](#), as well as an NIEA article, [Tribes Secure Victories for Native Education: What to know about the ESEA Reauthorization](#), and how they align with the Early Start bill.

There was also discussion about the need for one data management system and the challenges around using multiple systems for the same information.

Background Checks

- Conversation around a message sent by a lobbyist was shared and discussed.

Actions

The lobbyist's message was around adding legislation requiring DEL to respond in a timely

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manner to background check requests. The group reviewed the new CCDF requirements and shared recent experiences. Bette Hyde mentioned that DEL is currently in the process of creating a background check unit with licensing staff in order to provide a smoother, more consistent and speedy process. The group agreed that this topic should be on everyone's radar and that this is a government to government situation. There are a number of people pointing fingers and no one is doing anything about the issues. A conversation was shared that this topic should be every department's radar given the number of agencies who slow the process down. It was mentioned that background checks are not always enough and all new persons should be restricted when it comes to caring for children. Bette Hyde reassured the group that she would look into this at DEL, the state patrol and keep in conversation with Region X and bring this back to the next meeting. Some also confirmed that this topic is definitely a current hot one for other groups as well.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

- Bette Hyde provided an update on the CCDF Steering Committee and handed out a draft CCDF Preprint document to review and ask for input.

Discussion

There were a number of questions asked in order to gather input on the preprint, pages 16-20, including:

- Looking at paragraph 1 on page 16, if you could do anything to help this effort what would it be?
 - To add early learning navigators at each site, hold early learning fairs; connect the Early Learning Regional Coalitions, libraries and First People, First Steps. Provide a connection to the Early Learning Native American Tribal Councils and our Policy Councils. Have monthly parents supporting parents meetings, help connecting with our clinics early.
 - Cowlitz is currently working on similar efforts to these and will let the group know how it goes.
- Looking at #1 on page 16 (these are things we have to do but how to do them is flexible), if you were a provider, what would be helpful to you and what would be harmful to you?
 - Being linked to the DEL website or even to the Child Care Check system can be harmful to us. We would prefer to have a link from the DEL site to Region X. Also, we have our own Child Family Service that investigates any incidents that happen in Child Care so having us included in this seems duplicative.
- What would you like to add regarding "research and best practices in child development"?
 - Thrive Washington has a great piece that is sent out about early learning development.

There was discussion on state policies regarding social emotional development and pre-k expulsion policies. This is a huge call-out for DEL to truly support children with disabilities. It is

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a great thing for children but there needs to be supports in services. ECEAP clearly states no expulsions while Head Start is less clear. This also leads to asking the question, what is happening in the K12 system? They are expelling students all the time.

Bylaws

- The group reviewed the changes that were made and agreed to vote on the document.

Actions

- A motion passed to approve the bylaws with the elected parties added:
 - Chair – Patty Eningowuk
 - Vice – Sally Brownsfield
 - Secretary – Teri Nelson
 - Member at Large – Jessica Payne
 - Member at Large – Stephanie

Follow-up

- Email the final version of the Bylaws out.

Meeting Follow-up

- Patty Eningowuk will work with Shannon Bergquist to put together a doodle for everyone to respond to in order to find best dates for the next meetings.
- Request to add the topic of Leadership Changes and the future of IPEL to the next meeting agenda.
- What is the dollar amount of WCCC subsidies that goes to the tribes?
 - We (DEL) are not sure on this but can get this out to you.
- Bette Hyde agreed to gather more information on Background Checks and bring it back to the next meeting.
- The American Indian Tribal Summit is set for June 3rd, invites will be sent out to everyone.
- Port Gamble is hosting a training in May and will send out more information soon.