



## Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting

April 14, 2014 . 9:00 to 3:30 . Lacey Community Center

# Minutes

### ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bianca Bailey – Parent & Parent Advisory Group Member, Department of Early Learning  
Luba Bezborodnikova – Associate Superintendent for Early Learning, Puget Sound ESD  
Bob Butts – Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
RaShelle Davis – Early Learning Policy Advisory, Governor’s Executive Policy Office  
Kathy Goebel – Policy Associate, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges  
Cynthia Juarez – Early Learning Director, ESD 105  
Rebecca Timmen – Project LAUNCH State/Early Childhood Coordination Systems Coordinator, DOH  
Dee Hirsch – Program and Admissions Director, Discovery Montessori School  
Dr. Bette Hyde – Director, Department of Early Learning  
Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer – Project Manager, HSSCO, Department of Early Learning  
Lois Martin – Director, Community Day Center for Children, Inc.  
Casey Osborn-Hinman *on behalf of* Leslie Dozono – Early Learning Policy Director, Children’s Alliance  
Jennifer Ross – Parent  
Gene Sharratt – Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council  
Karen Walker – ESIT Program Administrator, Department of Early Learning  
Lisa Webb – Family Child Care Provider  
Sam Whiting – President & Chief Executive Officer, Thrive by Five Washington

### ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Annette Cleveland – Washington State Senate  
Representative Jessyn Farrell – Washington State House of Representatives  
Representative Larry Haler – Washington State House of Representatives  
Nelly Mbajah – Early Childhood Development Program Manager, Department of Social & Health Services  
Jeromy Sullivan – Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe Chairman  
VACANT – Washington State Senate

### REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) IN ATTENDANCE

Samantha Bowen – Southeast  
Enrica Hampton – SOAR, King County  
Karri Livingston – Investing in Children: Coalition Central  
Rhodes Lockwood – Olympic-Kitsap Peninsulas  
Wilanne Ollila-Perry – Northwest  
Christine Rosenquist *on behalf of* Susan Barbeau – First 5 FUNdamentals of Pierce County  
Nancy Spurgeon – North Central  
Sandra Szambelan – Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast  
Dan Teuteberg – Visions for Early Learning, West Central  
Jodi Wall – Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

### Coalition and State & Partner Agency Updates

- Updates from each of the 10 Early Learning Regional Coalitions and state and partner agencies were distributed during the meeting.
  - [ELAC State & Partner Agency Updates](#)
  - [Early Learning Regional Coalition Updates](#)

### Meeting Purpose and Outcomes

- Bianca Bailey, Co-Chair, and Enrica Hampton, Regional Advisor explained that the meeting structure and agenda was different based on feedback received since the last meeting.
  - Meeting Outcomes:
    - Create a productive & supportive meeting environment
    - Refocus on ELAC’s purpose and charge
    - Initial reflection on how ELAC is operating
    - Adopt the 2014 ELAC Work Plan

### Getting Connected

- Bianca explained the [Constructivist Listening](#) concept and invited meeting participants to pair up and share what’s on top of their mind as they enter the meeting.

### Community Agreements

- Kathy Goebel, Co-Chair, led an activity where ELAC developed a set of community agreements on what everyone needs and commits to each other to create a supportive, open and productive meeting environment.

Next Steps	The Executive Committee will synthesize the agreements and bring back to adopt at the June meeting.
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### ELAC Purpose

- Bianca facilitated an activity to refocus on ELAC’s purpose and to start including a purpose statement at the head of each meeting agenda.

Conclusion	ELAC approved the following simplified purpose statement: To build a comprehensive system of early learning services, ELAC will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Advise DEL and WELP as requested</li><li>○ Commit to open dialogue to bring up timely issues and diverse priorities</li><li>○ Deliberate and influence state/local policies and programs</li><li>○ Actively engage to support state/local connections</li></ul>
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### ELAC Reflection

- Kathy facilitated an initial reflection on what’s going well and what can be strengthened to improve ELAC’s effectiveness and capacity to work together.

Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DEL will include the <a href="#">reflection questions</a> in the meeting survey for further input.</li><li>• The Executive Committee and an additional Regional Advisor will review the input from meeting and survey and will recommend adjustments at the June meeting.</li></ul>
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### Two-Way Communication Protocol Review

- Evette Jasper, DEL State/Local Coordination Program Manager, introduced the [Two-Way Communication Protocol](#) review process.
  - [Two-Way Communication Protocol Review](#)

Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEL will include the Two-Way Communication Protocol questions in the meeting survey.</li> <li>• The Two-Way Communication Protocol Committee will review the input and recommend improvement to the Protocol at the June meeting.</li> </ul>
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**ELAC Work Plan**

- Bea Kelleigh, Dovetailing, provided a brief overview of the Work Plan and how it was developed. She thanked the members of the Work Plan Committee and facilitated discussions on each topic. Evette Jasper presented the Advancing Racial Equity (ARE) topic, Judy King, DEL Strengthening Families WA Administrator presented the Family Partnerships & Engagement topic, and Amy Blondin, DEL Government and Community Relations Manager presented the Public Awareness topic. At the end of each discussion there was a request for joint agreement noting any edits that would be made to the 2014 Work Plan.
  - [ELAC Work Plan Presentation](#)
  - [Draft 2014 ELAC Work Plan](#)
  - [Draft Work Plan Descriptions & Success Measures](#)
  - [Summary Feedback of the Draft 2014 ELAC Work Plan](#)

Discussion	<p>During the Advancing Racial Equity discussion, members suggested embedding a racial equity lens for all work plan topics and aligning with efforts in the state, including the <a href="#">Advancing Racial Equity Theory of Change</a> (RETOC) and <a href="#">Community of Practice</a> (COP) convened by Thrive sooner than the proposed timeline. Not all DEL staff and ELAC members participated in the development and conversations about the RETOC. DEL’s Diversity Committee will be meeting to discuss DEL’s internal strategies and policies. Ideally, everyone begins with a shared understanding and commitment to focusing on the impact that race, culture and language have on child outcomes before agreeing on the framework/lens. Holding the ARE retreat in September will allow potential new members to participate. DEL and Thrive are inviting National Equity Project, the organization that facilitated the RETOC development and COP, to facilitate the retreat. Most preferred that the retreat be one and a half to two days with one overnight for travelers.</p>
Conclusion	<p>ELAC approved the Work Plan topics discussed with the following adjustments:</p> <p><u>Advancing Racial Equity (ARE)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Add an ARE success measure for all topics.</li> <li>○ Ask Thrive to introduce the RETOC at the August meeting.</li> <li>○ Adjust the ARE success measure to having a plan and process to “intentionally and meaningfully inform policy, practice, program quality and access to services so that neither race, nor risk factors (e.g., homelessness, poverty, or involvement in the child welfare system) are predictors of children’s success.”</li> <li>○ Add a success measure to track progression of ELAC’s racial equity work.</li> </ul> <p><u>Family Partnerships &amp; Engagement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Add a family partnership &amp; engagement success measure for all topics.</li> </ul> <p><u>Public Awareness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Include creating a public awareness work group as a success measure.</li> </ul>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEL will send the RETOC to ELAC.</li> <li>• DEL will send the questions/request for input on Family Partnerships &amp; Engagement as soon as possible.</li> <li>• DEL will request information on current early learning public awareness efforts</li> </ul>

	across the state.
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**LUNCH and a Child Abuse Prevention Month Presentation**

- Jenni Olmstead, DEL Strengthening Families Washington (SFWA) Community Outreach & Engagement Manager provided a [presentation](#) on Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**ELAC Work Plan**

- Evette Jasper presented the Supporting Infants & Toddlers topic and Juliet Morrison, DEL Assistant Director of Quality Practice & Professional Growth presented the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)/Preschool Expansion, Share Services Alliances and WaKIDS topics.
  - [Shared Services Alliance webinar PPT from BUILD](#)
  - [Shared Services in Early Care and Education webinar](#)
  - [Share Services one-pager](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Regional Advisors asked how timely issues, such as aligning Early Head Start standards with child care licensing rules for infant and toddler age groupings and integrating Infant/Toddler Child Care Consultations with Early Achievers, will be addressed. Work is underway for both efforts, and DEL will keep ELAC updated on progress and opportunities for input.</p> <p>During the ECEAP/Preschool Expansion discussion, Juliet explained that DEL is moving in the direction of expanding full-day preschool because research shows that children benefit from these models significantly more than part-day programs. This will also build our state’s capacity and competitiveness for federal preschool grants. A member asked about the letters of interest and intent to apply for the additional 1,350 ECEAP slots. DEL received 47 letters – 20 from existing contractors and 27 from potential new contractors. Applicants requested 3,208 new slots and 778 conversion slots (moving from a part-day program to full-day or extended full-day). There was discussion about whether part-day options will continue, so families have choices. Juliet clarified that part-day options will continue, but eventually DEL will move towards only full-day. Members expressed that support will be needed for the early learning system to take on full-day preschool, and ELAC would like to first educate communities on this direction and play a role in problem-solving with DEL.</p> <p>Juliet clarified that the Shared Services Alliances roadmap/work plan would be for communities to take up based on their needs and capacity. This is an opportunity for ELAC to start this effort from the ground up. There was a suggestion that all providers should be encouraged to consider forming alliances, not just those participating in ECEAP and Early Achievers. Another member suggested involving Early Achievers training resource hubs.</p>
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<p><b>Conclusion</b></p>	<p>ELAC approved the Work Plan topics discussed with the following adjustments:</p> <p><u>Supporting Infants &amp; Toddlers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Convene a work group to help develop a set of high-impact recommendations for changes to policy, access to programs and program quality that will improve supports for infants and toddlers.</li> <li>○ Connect with efforts in other agencies (DOH, Essentials of Early Childhood steering committee)</li> <li>○ Highlight needs of children with disabilities, developmental delays and special needs</li> </ul> <p><u>ECEAP/Preschool Expansion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Change the joint action to educating communities and constituencies about full-day preschool and what it will take to get there.</li> <li>○ ELAC has an advisory role in ECEAP/Preschool expansion efforts.</li> </ul> <p><u>Early Achievers &amp; ECEAP/Preschool Expansion: Share Services Alliances</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Convene a work group of ELAC and partners with interest/expertise in shared services alliances to develop recommendations.</li> <li>○ Include providers at level 2 of Early Achievers to support them in moving up the levels.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DEL will send a one-pager on ECEAP/Preschool Expansion and full-day preschool with links to larger research.</li> </ul>

**Closing Remarks & Adjourn**

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for **June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014** from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way.