



Washington State Department of  
**Early Learning**

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting

February 24, 2014 – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm – Lacey Community Center

## State Agency and Partner Updates

### Agency/Partner Update

#### Department of Early Learning (DEL)

- We continue honoring an “Unsung Hero” each day this month as part of Parent Recognition Month. Check them out on our Strengthening Families Washington – Department of Early Learning Facebook page.
- We are offering nine regional domestic violence trainings for home visitors, and grantees under our Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant, among others. This is happening in partnership with the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The trainings will reach close to 500 staff who work with families with young children. This is a huge effort to help families provide safe, stable and nurturing environments for children. Violence can impact a child’s brain development and hinder the positive impacts of early learning interventions.
- As of Dec. 31, 1,796 licensed child care providers have joined Early Achievers. This is a third of all providers statewide! We have a new Early Achievers “data dashboard” posted on our Early Achievers web page under “Top Downloads”:  
[www.del.wa.gov/care/gris/](http://www.del.wa.gov/care/gris/). We will post updates monthly.
- Early Learning Plan 2014 priority strategies for DEL, OSPI, and Thrive are posted online at [www.del.wa.gov/plan](http://www.del.wa.gov/plan). Thank you for your help shaping these priorities!
- **MERIT Workforce Data Update:** DEL is working with analytics team to produce a workforce data report based on information captured in MERIT. Several technical and procedural issues have resulted in delays with the timing of the report. DEL has been working with a team of professional development stakeholders and members of the original Professional Development Consortium to simplify the Career Lattice and education verification process. Changes will go into effect in July 2014 and will result in greater data quality and numbers of verified professionals.

#### Department of Health & Social Services (DSHS)

- See attached – *Strategic Plan and Lean Report*

#### Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

- **Early Learning Collaboration:** We have been working with Child Care Aware to provide a statewide system for providing elementary school principals a list of child care providers that feed into their schools and to connect the principals with their regional CCAs. The process for obtaining the list is scheduled to be available in February.

- **Fingerprinting:** DEL and OSPI have been working jointly to allow the DEL Portable Background check to be sufficient for the OSPI fingerprint check in cases where an individual needs to obtain both background checks. The joint request legislation is moving through the Legislative process.
- **Full Day Kindergarten:** In early February, OSPI and the UW (Kristie Kauerz) convened a “Brain Trust” of teachers and state agency staff from four states to identify what content to provide in Full-day Kindergarten professional development. Funding was provided by the Gates Foundation. Child development and the learning environment were very high on the list. Results of the discussion will be incorporated into professional development material and used in the upcoming FDK Institute before Starting Strong and in other PD settings.
- **Upcoming Conferences:**
  - March 5: WERA P-3 Symposium. Registration available at: <http://www.wera-web.org/>
  - Full-Day K Institute: August 4, Kennewick
  - Starting Strong: August 5-6, Kennewick

#### **Department of Health (DOH)**

- Dr. Kathy Lofy has been appointed interim Health Officer for DOH. Kathy has been a medical epidemiologist with our agency since 2007. She holds a B.S. in human biology from Stanford University; a M.D. from UCLA School of Medicine; and she completed her pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital in Oakland, California.
- Rebecca Timmen and Carol Miller recently gave a presentation at the Association of Maternal Child Health Programs (AMCHP) in Washington, DC on working with early childhood systems partners to bring Washington State’s Universal Developmental Screening initiative to fruition. The presentation was very well received.
- House Bill 2086 is moving forward. This bill is about banning smoking in cars whether parked or moving with anyone under 18 years of age.
- Last fall, the UW Center for Public Health Nutrition conducted Washington’s first statewide survey of nutrition and physical activity in child care. An advisory team of child care and health experts from the Department of Health, the Department of Early Learning, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Child Care Aware of Washington, the YMCA, local health departments, the University of Washington, Washington State University, and Seattle Children’s Hospital developed the survey. The survey addressed nutrition, physical activity, and screen time practices, policies, challenges, training, food procurement, and communication with families. All licensed child care providers who care for children ages 2-5 were invited to participate in the survey, which was offered online or by mail and was available in English and Spanish. Over 1,900 center providers completed the survey (692) and 1,281 family home providers completed it. Preliminary survey results will be available this spring.

#### **Thrive by Five Washington (Thrive)**

- **New CEO:** On Jan. 31, Sam Whiting started as Thrive’s new president & CEO. He recently served as education investor for Boeing, leading the company’s relationships with state and local education leaders as well as nonprofit education agencies working statewide to improve education outcomes from birth to high school graduation and beyond.

Before joining Boeing, Sam spent almost two decades in nonprofit management in the arts, education and human services fields. He directed early childhood programs for Children's Home Society, including leading Head Start, family mental health, and maternal/child health programs. Sam spent six years as executive director of Page Ahead, a statewide children's literacy nonprofit serving more than 50,000 children. He also served as Director of Foundation Projects for The Seattle Foundation.

<http://thrivebyfivewa.org/2014/01/06/whiting-named-president-ceo-of-thrive/>

- **First Lady Trudi Inslee:** Washington state's First Lady has joined the Thrive Board of Directors. Mrs. Inslee has a deep commitment to children's issues and will be an incredible partner in this work. <http://thrivebyfivewa.org/2014/01/23/washington-state-first-lady-joins-thrive-by-five-washington-board-of-directors/>
- **Leadership Luncheon:** Thrive is excited to continue the [Leadership Luncheon](#) tradition started a decade ago by the Foundation for Early Learning. The luncheon will be held on Friday, April 25, from 12-1:30 p.m. at The Westin Seattle. Stay tuned for an email this month about individual ticket sales. <http://thrivebyfivewa.org/2014-leadership-luncheon/>
- **Legislative Session:** It's a short 60-day session, but Thrive is part of the big conversations happening around early learning. We are engaged in discussions related to the Early Start bills, which prioritize high-quality care and improved connections between state-funded early learning programs. We are also supporting our coalition partners as they advocate for a bill to permanently add regional voices to ELAC. Each week, Thrive issues Legislative Update from Olympia to help you easily track important issues unfolding in the Legislature: <http://thrivebyfivewa.org/category/legislative-updates/>
- **Nearly \$2 Million in Grant Awards:** On Jan. 1, Thrive awarded nearly \$2 million in grants to support our [home visiting](#), [Advancing Racial Equity](#) and [Community Momentum](#) efforts. For the first time, we provided grants to help a handful of organizations in their work to eliminate the opportunity gap by ensuring the state Early Learning Plan is implemented with a racial equity lens. Through the Home Visiting Services Account, we also announced grants to [support home visiting in three communities as part of the Rural Home Visiting Project](#), an effort that is getting attention at this week's National Summit on Quality Home Visiting in Washington, D.C.
  - **Home Visiting Programs Receive \$240,000 to Serve Families:** <http://thrivebyfivewa.org/2014/01/30/home-visiting-programs-receive-240000-to-serve-families/>
  - **Pioneering Effort Helps Bring Evidence-Based Home Visiting to Rural Areas:** <http://thrivebyfivewa.org/2014/01/30/pioneering-effort-helps-bring-evidence-based-home-visiting-to-rural-areas/>
  - **Thrive Invests in Community Organizations to Advance Racial Equity:** <http://thrivebyfivewa.org/2014/01/30/thrive-invests-in-community-organizations-to-advance-racial-equity/>
  - **Regional Early Learning Coalitions Receive \$845,000 in Funds:** <http://thrivebyfivewa.org/2014/01/30/regional-early-learning-coalitions-receive-845000-in-funds/>

- **PEW Conference:** Thrive showed its early learning leadership in the other Washington at the end of January. Out of six panels at the National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs, three had Washington state presenters. Thrive's Liv Woodstrom presented on the Rural Home Visiting Project she leads, and Quen Zorrah presented on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and how home visiting can implement ACEs screenings. In addition, Kelli Bohanon of the Department of Early Learning spoke on embedding home visiting in the early learning system.