

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2015 – 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Girl Scout Center, DuPont

Welcome & Introductions

- Bianca Bailey, ELAC Co-Chair welcomed all attendees and asked for introductions.
- The [April 7, 2015 meeting minutes](#) were approved.
- The [feedback loop form](#), one of the information sharing tools of the [Two-Way Communication Protocol](#), was reviewed.
- [State Agency/Partner Updates](#) and [Coalition Updates](#) were distributed and members were encouraged to review and connect with the contacts listed if they had questions.

Advancing Racial Equity

- Evette Jasper, DEL’s State/Local Coordination Program Manager provided a follow up to the April 7 meeting, reviewing the [Racial Equity Implementation Plan](#), [Revised Racial Equity Theory of Change](#), [Racial Equity Principles](#) and [Racial Equity Questions](#).

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call out in part A. “Roles & Responsibilities” that communities need adequate time to consider and respond by referring to the agreements made in the Two-Way Communication protocol. • There are a lot of documents and text to look at with the implementation plan, revised RETOC, principles and questions. What does this all look like in practice? In terms of the questions, many are included as supplemental. During the April meeting, the agreement was to look to the first lines of questions for conversation. We can post the questions at the front of the room for every meeting. • DEL recently had a retreat for all staff that was specifically focused on leading for equity. Overall the feedback was positive from the staff. <p>There was a short discussion about the hopes and fears for the new DEL Director.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new director comes with a mindset that ELAC provide advice and seeks guidance on policy and implementation. • One fear is that the new director will come in with a whole new set of priorities when we’re moving in the right direction. • Really happy to hear that the Governor’s office is looking for Washington candidate because of where we are in building the system. It is important for the new director to be able to focus on implementation, provide leadership and guidance and make tough decisions. • Someone who can systemically approach the implementation of a mixed delivery system. • Someone who embraces the racial equity principles and the work ELAC has done. • Based on our racial equity conversations, having a person of color would be beneficial.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEL needs someone who is a really good relationship builder. There are some bad feelings in the field that need to be mended. Bridges have been burned with the speed of action in implementing Race to the Top. The new director needs to be willing to sit down with the public, parents and stakeholders and have an open conversation. Someone who will listen to community voice and perspectives and have it influence decisions. • Someone with influence and clout with the state and federal Legislature to increase funding for early learning. • The new DEL director should maintain a commitment to ensuring a whole child focus. Person recognizes the field of child development and services, sometimes the focus is on child care and the other things aren't addressed which is difficult when policies are set and things are missing in our blended field. • Hope the new director recognized the contributions of early childhood educators. Child care has been a big focus.
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Family Partnerships and Engagement

- Evette Jasper, Deanna Stewart, DEL's State/Local Coordination Program Specialist and April Messenger, DEL's Head Start State Collaboration Office Project Manager provided an update on family partnership and engagement efforts, including the Parent Advisory Group and asked for guidance on how to connect local and state efforts to strengthen family voice.
 - [Family Partnerships & Engagement Update](#)
 - [Family Partnerships & Engagement Strategies](#)
 - [Parent Advisory Group Recruitment Information](#)
 - [Parent Advisory Group Recruitment Form](#)

Discussion	<p>See small group discussion notes here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PAG needs a clear mission and vision, so parents know why they are participating. Be specific about what the topics will be for each meeting. • It is important for parents to be clear about the membership criteria • not doing an application/recruitment process and trusting local voices, • DEL needs to be clear up front about whether child care is available, how to accommodate families with special needs and provide translated materials.
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LUNCH & Learn with Healthiest Next Generation

- Adrienne Dorf, Healthiest Next Generation Program Manager at DEL provided a brief [presentation](#) on the Healthiest Next Generation (HNG) Initiative and shared a number of materials:
 - [Healthiest Next Generation Resource Card](#)
 - [Healthiest Next Generation Policy Brief](#)
 - [Early Childhood Drinking Water Toolkit](#)
 - [What does your preschooler do in day care? Not much active, study says](#)

ELAC Member & Regional Advisor Recognitions

- Heather Moss, DEL's Deputy Director thanked and recognized the ELAC members and Regional Advisors who will be completing their two-year terms on June 30, 2015:
 - Bianca Bailey – Parent Advisory Group and Parent Representative
 - Luba Bezborodnikova – Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant/Seasonal Head Start, and Tribal Head Start program Representative

- Bob Butts – OSPI Representative
- Jennifer Ross – Parent Representative
- Jeromy Sullivan – Tribal Representative
- Karen Walker – State agency responsible for programs under section 619 or Part C of the federal individuals with disabilities education act Representative
- Lisa Webb – Family Child Care Center Representative
- Enrica Hampton – SOAR/King County Coalition Representative
- Karri Livingston – Investing in Children: Coalition Central
- Wilanne Ollila-Perry – Northwest Coalition
- Sandra Szambelan – Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast Coalition
- Jodi Wall – Southwest Washington Early Learning Coalition
- Sam Whiting – President & CEO of Thrive Washington

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

- Lynne Shanafelt, DEL’s CCDF Administrator facilitated a discussion on the CCDF Plan development and requested feedback on how to implement the new requirements of the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 on promoting family engagement through outreach and consumer education. She also provided a number of handouts for members to reference:
 - [Revised CCDF Preprint](#)
 - [Implementing the CCDBG Reauthorization: A Guide for States](#) (pp. 12-15)
 - [CCDBG Act - Consumer Education Section](#)

2016 DEL Request Legislation and Washington Early Learning Partnership

- Justin Montermini, DEL’s Government and Community Relations Manager and Greg Williamson, DEL’s Assistant Director for Partnerships and Collaboration lead a discussion of the 2015 legislative session and the draft Washington Early Learning Partnership’s priority strategies of the Early Learning Plan for 2015-2016.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are projecting to see a final state budget within the next few weeks. Given that we are not sure about the final decisions in the current session, DEL has not started preparing request legislation for the 2016 session. DEL will be sure to engage ELAC the planning process. ● The Washington Early Learning Partnership now includes DOH, DSHS. The Partnership is working on coordinating the timing of when the priority strategies are developed, so ELAC and the Regional Coalitions have time to provide input. ● See ELAC’s input on the draft priority strategies for 2015-2016 here.
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Meeting Follow-up, Closing Remarks & Adjourn

- Deanna Stewart thanked all the ELAC members and Regional Advisors whose terms would be expiring in June. She also mentioned that DEL and the Governor’s Office would be recruiting soon for new ELAC members.
- Enrica Hampton, Regional Advisor, reflected on what was covered in the [2015 ELAC Work Plan](#) during the meeting and what topics to look forward to at the August ELAC meeting, including Early Achievers, CCDF, 2016 DEL Request Legislation and the 2016 ELAC Work Plan.
- The next regular meeting is scheduled for **August 10th, 2015** at Lacey Community Center.

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
Peter Finch – Assistant Superintendent, West Valley School District
Dee Hirsch – Program and Admissions Director, Discovery Montessori School
Heather Moss *on behalf of* Dr. Bette Hyde – Director, Department of Early Learning
Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer – Early Learning Policy Director, Children’s Alliance
Kathy Goebel – Policy Associate, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
Anne Messerly – Program Associate, Washington Student Achievement Council
Jennifer Ross – Parent
Rebecca Timmen – Project LAUNCH State/Early Childhood Coordination Systems Coordinator, DOH
Dan Torres *on behalf of* Sam Whiting – President & Chief Executive Officer, Thrive by Five Washington

REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) IN ATTENDANCE

Susan Barbeau – First 5 FUNdamentals of Pierce County
Yolanda Esquivel – Southeast
Enrica Hampton – SOAR, King County
Karri Livingston – Investing in Children: Coalition Central
Rhodes Lockwood – Olympic-Kitsap Peninsulas
Jodi Wall – Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

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
Caitlin Jensen – Project Manager, HSSCO, Department of Early Learning
Lois Martin – Director, Community Day Center for Children, Inc.
Nelly Mbajah – Early Childhood Development Program Manager, Department of Social & Health Services
Jeromy Sullivan – Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe Chairman
Karen Walker – ESIT Program Administrator, Department of Early Learning
Lisa Webb – Family Child Care Provider
VACANT – Washington State Senate

REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) IN ATTENDANCE

Wilanne Ollila-Perry – Northwest
Nancy Spurgeon – North Central
Sandra Szambelan – Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast
Dan Teuteberg – Visions for Early Learning, West Central