

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Radisson Hotel Seattle Tacoma Airport

Welcome & Introductions

- Bianca Bailey, ELAC Co-Chair and Enrica Hampton, Regional Advisor for SOAR, King County welcomed attendees and asked for introductions.
- The [August 10, 2015 meeting minutes](#) were approved.
- ELAC reviewed the [feedback loop form](#), one of the information sharing tools of the [Two-Way Communication Protocol](#).
- The Council reviewed the updates provided by [State Agencies/Partners](#) and the [Regional Coalitions](#).

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the Washington State Full-Day Kindergarten Guide can be submitted to FDKGuide@k12.wa.us. • OSPI has started a social emotional learning work group. • Indian Policy Early Learning (IPEL) Committee updates will be added to the feedback loop. • Schools will get enhanced funding through grants starting in March 2016, if they have one certified teacher in the classroom for every seventeen students. • There was discussion about the need for quicker background checks processing and an easier pathway for students to get background checks. • DEL Budget update – 2016 is a supplemental budget year. DEL requests are primarily for funding necessary to implement new federal Child Care Development Block Grant reauthorization requirements. There are approximately three thousand friend and neighbor caregivers who accesses Working Child Care Connections subsidy that now require fingerprinting background checks and annual monitoring. DEL will also request funding for ECLIPSE (Early Childhood Intervention Prevention Services), Healthiest Next Generation and to implement national Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standards (CLAS). The collective bargaining agreement with SEIU 925 requires funding. DEL is not asking for more ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) slots, we can't even fill the ones we have now. Funding for ABCS (Attendance, Billing and Childcare Subsidy) is included in the need for more fiscal capacity.
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Early Start Act (ESA) Overview

- Luba Bezborodnikova, DEL's Assistant Director for the Early Start Act and Rachael Brown-Kendall, DEL's Quality Rating Improvement System Administrator provided an ESA [update](#).
 - [Early Start Act October 2015 Update](#)
 - [ESA 2015 Projects](#)
 - [Attendance Policy DRAFT](#)
 - [Attendance Supporting Materials](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECEAP contractors receive funding by slots. There are standards around enrollment, but children's attendance does not impact their funding. • The proposed attendance policies will only impact the Working Child Care Connection subsidy, not the Homeless child care subsidy, but eventually all subsidies will be reviewed. • The University of Washington is ramping up their staff to support the number of providers getting rated in Early Achievers. They are also looking at a cohort model to match up with patterns developed over the last three years of implementation. • One thing to be good to highlight in the report if you are going to use WaKIDS data then
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	<p>– we need to consider all the possible places data could be. I think we need to consider that there is no baseline for those families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next ELAC meeting is on Dec 1, so input from the Early Achievers Review Subcommittee will be shared with the rest of the Council for additional feedback. • <u>Small Group Discussions</u> on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What could be the allowable periods of child absences? 2. What could be required in order to establish a contact with parents or caregivers to discuss child absences? What could be required to encourage regular program attendance? 3. What type of de-enrollment procedures could be established when allowable child absences are exceeded? 4. How demonstrated engagement in Early Achievers could be defined in order to grant an Early Achievers rating extension? • DEL has a web page that outlines the deliverables and timelines required by the Early Start Act and implementation resources: http://www.del.wa.gov/government/EarlyStartAct/Default.aspx
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Advancing Racial Equity

- Evette Jasper, DEL’s State/Local Coordination Administrator presented the recommendations for ELAC’s Racial Equity framework implementation.
 - [ELAC Racial Equity Work Group Recommendations](#)
 - [Revised Essential Racial Equity Questions](#)
 - [Revised ELAC Charter & Guiding Documents](#)

Discussion	<p>Small group discussions resulted in the following notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELAC Roles & Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include a definition of “racial equity lens” for a consistent interpretation throughout guiding documents. ○ Extend the racial equity lens to two-way communication and report back. ○ Convene an ongoing racial equity work group. ○ Include data/narrative on the use of the racial equity lens and implementation in the annual report/reflection due in June. • RACIAL EQUITY FOUNDATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measure responsiveness to community needs using SMART goals to promote accountability. ○ Build training/reflection/leadership development opportunities around racial equity into the annual retreat. ○ Consider the model of Healthiest Next Generation (i.e. use of trained mentors and materials). ○ Action reports twice per year from coalitions on implementing racial equity lens. ○ Look for data resources to ensure voices aren’t missed. ○ DEL can learn from communities—attend and listen. • RACIAL EQUITY TOOLKIT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change language in the Racial Equity “Essential Questions” document from “you” to “we” to be more inclusive. ○ Set context ahead of time with data and examples ex: WAKids good outcome. ○ There was discussion on using the Early Achievers Review subcommittee as a model for using an equity lens. A request was made to define subcommittee membership by who needs to be at the table, ensuring supports for parents and providers who participate, and being intentional about having skilled facilitation. Members need to make a commitment to participate in a certain number of meetings. Translation should be available.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELAC recommended establishing a standing racial equity subcommittee of ELAC. • ELAC adopted the revised ELAC Charter and Guiding documents.

2016 ELAC Work Plan

- Deanna Stewart, DEL’s State/Local Coordination Program Manager presented the [2016 Work Plan Topics DRAFT](#) and Greg Williamson, DEL’s Assistant Director of Partnerships & Collaboration introduces an example of a calendar template he’d like to create showing what’s happening around the state in Early Learning.

- [Annual Calendar DRAFT](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make early learning work force and professional development separate topics. When combined, the issues of compensation and teacher turnover may be lost. ELAC should also look at the shortage of child care providers.• Add the Annual Progress Report review of recommendations as a work plan topic.• Include a link to the Washington Early Learning Partnership’s eight priority strategies for 2015-2016.
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ELAC Co-Chair Elections

- Deanna Stewart provided an overview of the Co-Chair roles and announced the nominees to ELAC. The newly elected ELAC Co-Chairs are Anne Messerly and Lois Martin.

Meeting Follow-up, Closing Remarks & Adjourn

- Enrica Hampton, reflected on what ELAC covered on the [2015 ELAC Work Plan](#) and what topics to look forward to during the December ELAC meeting, including the 2013 Work Force Report, Early Start Act, Early Achievers Review Subcommittee Annual Report, Advancing Racial Equity, and the 2016 ELAC Work Plan.
- The next regular meeting is scheduled for **December 1st, 2015**, Location TBD.

ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Bianca Bailey – Parent & Department of Early Learning Parent Advisory Group Member
- Bob Butts – Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- RaShelle Davis – Early Learning Policy Advisory, Governor’s Executive Policy Office
- Representative Tom Dent – Washington State House of Representatives
- Peter Finch – Assistant Superintendent, West Valley School District
- Kathy Goebel – Policy Associate, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
- Dee Hirsch – Program and Admissions Director, Discovery Montessori School
- Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer – Early Learning Policy Director, Children’s Alliance
- Kathy Schuknecht – Office of Head Start, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Region X on *behalf of* Caitlin Jensen – Project Manager, HSSCO, Department of Early Learning
- Lois Martin – Director, Community Day Center for Children, Inc.
- Anne Messerly – Program Associate, Washington Student Achievement Council
- Maria Nardella – Manager, Healthy Starts & Transitions, Department of Health
- Jennifer Ross – Parent
- Representative Tana Senn – Washington State House of Representatives
- Dan Torres on *behalf of* Sam Whiting – President & Chief Executive Officer, Thrive Washington

REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) IN ATTENDANCE

- Susan Barbeau – First 5 FUNDamentals of Pierce County
 - Yolanda Esquivel – Southeast
 - Enrica Hampton – SOAR, King County
 - Rhodes Lockwood – Olympic-Kitsap Peninsulas
 - Wilanne Ollila-Perry – Northwest
 - Nancy Spurgeon – North Central
 - Sandra Szambelan – Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast
 - Debby Ham on behalf of Jodi Wall – Southwest
- 3 Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Annette Cleveland – Washington State Senate

Senator Mark Miloscia – Washington State Senate

REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) ABSENT

Amy Kocher – Investing in Children: Coalition Central

Dan Teuteberg – Visions for Early Learning, West Central