



## **Early Learning Advisory Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

June 6, 2023 – 10:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

#### **Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions**

ELAC Executive Committee member Enrica Hampton welcomed attendees and walked through virtual meeting protocols. Introductions were completed via chat.

#### **Review of Meeting Materials**

Enrica Hampton led the group in reviewing the April 11 meeting minutes, feedback loop, the State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates, and the TLS Tracker Update.

- [April 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Feedback Loop](#)
- [State Agency/Partner Updates](#)
- [Regional Coalition Updates](#)
- [TLS Tracker Update](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<p><b><i>Feedback Loop</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding the ELAC Executive Committee vacancy, Enrica Hampton and Lois Martin will be working on a job description to give more info on the roles and responsibilities as it relates to serving on the executive committee. They hope to have something drafted by the August meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>TLS Tracker</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I wonder if more discussion is necessary for No. 4. I suspect that if ELAC and Provider Supports served the need that is hoping to be addressed, this recommendation would never have been made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Providers are short-staffed and can't take time out during the day to attend meetings. Having something quarterly off-schedule to give providers an opportunity to interact with DCYF would help out a lot.</li> <li>○ There are other spaces where providers feel better supported to voice what they're thinking and feeling. ELAC and Provider Supports meetings don't achieve these things.</li> <li>○ Curious if a regional approach would help meet the need better, too? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Yes, I would agree that may be more appropriate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ I would like to note that Licensing is attending the Provider Supports meeting next week for a deeper discussion and partnership on implementation, as well.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Feedback from providers is they would be more comfortable and more transparent working with existing partnerships in their own communities. The regional coalitions already have partnerships and trust in the communities, so DCYF should be using these already existing connections.</li> </ul>
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**Provider Engagement**

DCYF Assistant Secretary of Early Learning Nicole Rose and Interim Assistant Secretary of Licensing Ruben Reeves led the group through a discussion regarding statewide provider engagement plans.

- [Provider Engagement Presentation](#)
- [Provider Engagement Discussion](#)

<p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Now that the state emergency is lifted, are DCYF staff still required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 moving forward? If not, will staff who elected not to be vaccinated be invited to reapply for their positions? I imagine this mandate probably impacted their decision to leave or stay in their employment.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Gov Inslee rescinded the requirement for all state employees to be vaccinated. However, the union contract does say employees needed to be vaccinated. The union will be re-examining this but we don't have a timeframe.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Providers feel a lot of stress and anxiety around some of these processes that exist as part of the rating and quality assurance system. How well is this playing out or paying off for the early learning system? We need to look at how is the process contributing to the levels of stress, anxiety, and trauma that providers might be feeling so that we can think a little differently about the relationship-based work and foundations of the work that we do with young kids.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thank you. I appreciate the parallel process comments. I'm hopeful that the changes that we're recently made to the Early Achievers rating piece where providers are able to work with coaches and send in their video highlights have reduced some stress. But we do want to hear from providers if the revised system is working.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please reach out to Nicole Rose (<a href="mailto:nicole.rose@dcyf.wa.gov">nicole.rose@dcyf.wa.gov</a>) and Ruben Reeves (<a href="mailto:ruben.reeves@dcyf.wa.gov">ruben.reeves@dcyf.wa.gov</a>) with any follow-up questions.</li> </ul>

**Early Learning Updates**

DCYF's Assistant Secretary of Early Learning Nicole Rose, Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Administrator Tracie Kenney, and Federal Initiatives and Collaboration Administrator Matt Judge provided Early Learning updates and collected feedback on engagement for the Preschool Development Grant Workforce Planning Grant projects and Renewal Grant application.

- [Preschool Development Grant Engagement Presentation](#)
- [Early Learning Discussion](#)

<p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did the agency do in the past around the renewal process?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For both renewals, we had a base of questions that came up from community members or the needs assessment and we took those and turned them into the planning grant. This year will be more of a process based on what we know. We have a theory of change and metrics that we've used in the past. What we'd like to do is come back and say based on what we know, what do you think about this proposal or what is your proposal based on the parameters? That's what we're building now: how can we come to ELAC and our other partners and ask based on this what's a good next step? Some of that will be determined by what we learn this year as it is based on the data we are collecting. We should have a light overview in August and then a lot more detail as we move forward.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Please share where information on PDG is located so new members can review it.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Here is the <a href="#">PDG webpage</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Do the various teams under the PDG grant provide updates on what they're working on currently?</li> </ul>
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- Yes and no. PDG is a funding source. If we think of the Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability's (OIAA) data integration project, we are one funding stream that is braided into that. But for early learning topics, absolutely. There are more technical things that you would hear about but not necessarily see PDG attached to it.
  - Could you add links to the work you described on how the funding is used on the PDG webpage?
    - Everything on the PDG webpage has some funding through the PDG.
- Do PDG projects generally result in more requirements/expectations of providers?
  - In general, we don't get that specific. PDG projects are more about creating things like Shared Services. At the PDG level, we have a contract with the Imagine Institute to do mentoring. We have a contract through Childcare Aware for the business of childcare support and trainings. It's really a system support. This newest grant is really focused on the workforce. We're looking at what are the expectations for the workforce right now and how can we align and remove any duplication so that the pathways are easier and less burdensome.
    - When you have systems of improvement like the Imagine Institute, how do you measure the success of those things? What do you do with the information that you learn from measuring the impacts of those supports?
      - This grant requires an evaluation. OIAA evaluates all of the different projects and creates a logic model to see if established goals are accomplished. We then use that information to inform the best next steps depending on what the project is and find any gaps.
      - There are evaluative briefs on the [PDG website](#) that you can review which were put together by the evaluation team and project leads.
        - Are there no evaluations from the users? Is it all internal?
          - There are, but they are all different and it depends on the project.
- Can you share how the current funding was decided, the allocation, what you were going to apply for and what was the process last time for both the planning grant and the renewal grants?
  - There are a lot of things that go into it. One of them is how much time we have and how much money we have available to ask for. It is a competitive grant, so we have to follow the metrics. Once we have all of those, we have to align it with what we know. For example, over four years Play and Learn discovered that developmental assessments don't really align with the cultural values of immigrant, migrant, and Native American children in the Yakima area. So, they wanted to take time to go deeper and work with the communities and parents on a way to do the important assessments so that children and families have what they need and it's done in a culturally appropriate way.
  - With a one-year grant, we went through all of the data from the evaluations to find the big research questions and there was a focus on the workforce. We'll have to do something for data collection, a needs assessment update, and strategic planning.
- Does the PDG put out cash grants to providers?



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ That hasn't been in practice to date because it is systems building and it's competitive.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please reach out to Nicole Rose (<a href="mailto:nicole.rose@dcyf.wa.gov">nicole.rose@dcyf.wa.gov</a>), Matt Judge (<a href="mailto:matt.judge@dcyf.wa.gov">matt.judge@dcyf.wa.gov</a>), or Tracie Kenney (<a href="mailto:tracie.kenney@dcyf.wa.gov">tracie.kenney@dcyf.wa.gov</a>) with any follow-up questions.</li> </ul>

**Closing Remarks/Adjourn**

<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next ELAC Report Development Special Meeting will be on July 11, 2023</li> <li>• The next ELAC Public Meeting will be on August 1, 2023</li> </ul>
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**Members in Attendance:** Aida Rodriguez, Alexandra Martin-Truesdell, Astrid Newell, Christianna Clinton, Colleen Condon, Debbie Ham, Enrica Hampton, Kathy Carman, Lois Martin, Nancy Spurgeon, Nucha Isarowong, Olivia Burley, Samantha Bowen, Samantha Masters, Valerie Arnold

**Members Absent:**

April Shiosaki, Carlina Brown-Banks, Catherine Duffy, Claudette Lindquist, Debbie Carlsen, Deborah Sioux Lee, Deeann Puffert, Gray Sterling, Gary Burris, Heidi Scott, Isis Lara Fernandez, Jasmin Schmidt, Kathy Goebel, Kathy Yasi, Kelsey Alger, Kimberly Hoover, Luz Gomez, Nigel Lawrence, Representative Bob McCaslin, Representative Lisa Callan, Ryan Guzman, Senator Claire Wilson, Shereese Rhodes, Sheryl Fryberg, Susan Yang, Valisa Smith