



EARLY LEARNING WASHINGTON COUNTY (ELWC) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 24, 2021
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Virtual Zoom meeting platform

MINUTES

Call to Order

The Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm and was presided over by Executive Member Evan Weaver.

Attendees

Members in virtual attendance included: Lacey Hays, Olga Acuña, Angela Day, Jessica Rosengreen, Julie Novakowski, Debi Farr, Donalda Dodson, Karen Henkemeyer, Katie Anderson, Sabi Velasco, Bridget Cooke, Maureen Seferovich, Susan Salkeild

Members not in attendance included: Nancy Ford, Mariela Mireles, Katherine Galian, Kayla Bell, Jeanne Savage, Martin Blasco, Hannah Lobingier, Kristina Kurtz, Juana Garcia, Rolanda Garcia, Katie Riley, Gabi Bailey, LaRue Williams, Alaina Carter, Sonia Reyes, Peg King, Kelly Skopil, Luis Nava, Katie Riley.

Staff members / Guests in attendance included: Alessandro Mastrorocco, Evan Weaver, Leslie Moguil, Amy Henderson-Johnson, Begoña Rodriguez-Liern, Rebecca Collett, Nena Newsom, Bernardino De La Torre, Denise Swanson, Gwyn Bachtle.

Quorum

A quorum of voters was present.

Agenda Items	RESULT/ACTION
Welcome and Introductions -led by <i>Lacey Hays</i> Introductions in Zoom chat	Action: None
Review Agenda – led by <i>Lacey Hays</i>	Action: Agenda approved at 2:09 pm

Approval of Minutes and Conflict of Interest Declaration – led by *Lacey Hays*

Action: Minutes approved: By Olga Acuna, notion by Karen, 2nd by Donalda, and members in Zoom chat at 2:11 pm

Staff Updates – led by *Evan Weaver*

- WA Co. Child Care Grant through the Coronavirus Relief Funds, Evan did a report to the commissioners, report showed goal was achieved to focus on small home base providers.

Action: None

Washington County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) - led by *Evan Weaver*

- Reminder: WA Co. Community Health Improvement Plan is launching on April 9th online 10-12 pm, will send a link. Encourage everyone to get involve and help shape the process, Early Childhood will be more involved in the CHIP this time around.

Action: None

Preschool Promise Enrollment – led by *Alessandro Mastrorocco*

- Still enrolling for 20-21 year. Soon for 21-22 school year. Still have many spots available for Preschool Promise.
- Partnering with Forest Grove School District, receiving 45 application from the SD. Hope to increase the number of children enrolled in the program.
- Outreach – attending events to let inform the community about Preschool Promise. Begoña participated in a bilingual program. Also reaching out to small providers.
- Receiving questions for next year’s enrollment since this last year was unique.

Action: None

Legislative Process: Endorsing Legislators in 2021 – led by *Begoña Rodriguez-Liern*

- In the past there were very few requests for advocate/endorse/and lobbying. This year requests have been coming weekly, making it for a very quick

Action: Discussions for future meetings.

review and turnaround, sometimes having to decide on a weekend/short time and making it impossible to send you the information as the process requires now.

- Recommendation of the Executive Committee:
 1. At end of Legislative Session look at the language and processes to have in place for future legislative session.
 2. The importance of bringing back the role of Chair of the Student Committee
- These two recommendations will be discussed in future agendas
- Next week Ways and Means of Education Sub-Committee will have a public hearing, Lacy and Donalda will be participating. Anyone is welcome to participate.
- Reminder: The legislative session, passing bills is very slow right now.

Early Learning Division Q&A: Hub Scope of Work and Funding Revisions - led by *Denise Swanson*

- PowerPoint Presentation.
- Overview budget note completed for the legislature this year.
- Talk about CCR&R's and HUB and possibility of merger. Recommendations were not to merge; they work together but work is significantly different for both.
- Increased in parent voice leadership, there is a requirement of having a parent leadership counsel as part of the HUB work and embedded in the governance structure.
- Changes for new HUB scope of work, move to a new grant, updating what the scope of work would look like. Scope of work submitted to procurement to be on time for contract.
- Priority in the next grant is the need of more staff.
- Regional assessment requirement. Sector planning looking at the root causes in our communities, parent leadership counsel involvement, and requirement to update sector plan to align to assessment.
- Information about budget, funding, data, and new funding formula 2021-2023. Formula supports health and equity.

Action: PowerPoint available upon request, will be emailed.

Action: Would like to come back to do a full overview of the theory of change, it drives the work of the HUB moving forward.

Action: Washington County has already shown to have parent leadership involvement.

- From Rebecca: With the School Readiness dollars going away and the HUB coordination increase it's almost a net zero. KPI funding gives more funding and flexibility.

Preschool Promise Program Q&A - led by *Gwyn Bachtle*

- Gwyn Bachtle, Director of Early Learning Programs & Head Start Collaboration Office.
- Recognized Women's History month and Equal Pay.
- Preschool Promise roll into next fiscal year, some providers condition may not allow to receive continuation grant, some providers will be terminating grant agreement. For ELD to determine eligibility continuation different things go into consideration such as CPS open case, licensure issues, etc., and how things would look like in September. Also, a Certificate of insurance needs to be provided by April 16th.
- To communicate intent to continue? They are working on a Continuation Grant Application, and resources, slots available for redistribution.
- If providers are ineligible or terminate grant agreement how soon would they know? After insurance check April 16th there will be more information.
- Summer program plans will be in-person. Issues with challenges with staffing (transportation, etc.), hope for collaborations for facilities to be open and available.
- Program revisions for 21-22
- Possibility of New Program Partners/Sites for 21-22
- Questions:
- Application for providers for Summer program can extend current grant to June 30th (due to end of biennium) and for the EL summer Program grant, waiting for legislature approval. More recommendations to come.
- Intent is to extend services in person for children already in the program
- Thinking of multiple plans and flexibility to adjust.

Preschool for All in Washington County – led by *Evan Weaver*

- Staff just learned that Washington County was invited to have a conversation with NW Regional District about potentially expanding preschool program. More to come.

Action: Questions email Gwyn, cannot recommend any brokers.

Action: What questions, concerns, points of emphasis would you like us to share?

Expanded Preschool in Washington County

- ***What is Preschool for All?***
 - *Preschool for All (PFA) will give 3 and 4-year olds in Multnomah County access to free, high-quality, developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive preschool experiences. The program is slated to grow over time, increasing the number of children and families that it serves each year.*
 - *Funded by Multnomah County Income Tax for those who earn above \$250,000*
- ELWC staff in discussion with NWRESA, Children's Institute, Washington County & School Districts about the opportunity to implement a similar program in Washington County.
- Values ELWC Staff will bring to these discussions.
- A mixed-model approach to expanded preschool.
- Equity-centered approaches that focus on historically underserved families.
- Equitable pay scales across provider types.
- Professional Development as a core component of quality and accountability.

Adjourn 4:00 pm