

Quarterly Meeting Minutes September 24, 2009 1:00 – 3:00 PM

The purpose of these meetings is to share and discuss policy and budget matters of interest to early learning and afterschool policy makers, providers and advocates. WAEYC convenes these meetings as part of the Early Learning Action Alliance.

Present: Leslie Goldstein, Bette Hyde, Bob Hamilton, Sonali Patel, Bob Butts, Agda Burchard, Margie Reeves, Steve Olson, Cheri Sullivan, Brenda Banning, Mary Van Verst, Donna Horne, Sue Winn, Lonnie Johns-Brown, Katy Warren, Annette Dieker, Pat Dickason, Janet Frieling, Leslie Dozono and Brenda Benning

Sharing

State Revenue Forecast

The forecast wasn't as bad as feared but revenue is not increasing as forecasted and caseloads are increasing resulting in our deficit. State agencies are talking about the impact. It will be challenging down the road when the stimulus money goes away. The Governor needs to hear the public's position on increasing revenue. The next revenue forecast will be in mid November.

The state legislature directed where and how the Department of Early Learning should spend the federal stimulus package CCDBG funds. The feds are expected to announce soon Head Start and Early Head Start expansion dollars.

Calendar of Events

Providers, advocates and policy makers shared upcoming events and activities.

OSPI and DEL Organizational Charts

Bob Butts drew OSPI's organizational chart highlighting positions with responsibilities related to early learning and/or afterschool.

DEL staff distributed an organizational chart. DEL's three divisions are renamed family partnerships, children's programs and provider partnerships. DEL's contracts with other organizations will delineate outcomes for children, families, and providers.

Kindergarten Assessment and Early Learning and Development Benchmarks

DEL received \$50,000 per year for the kindergarten assessment process work and is seeking other supplemental funding. A two page concept paper describing the process was drafted. A pilot program is being developed and will be in place at the beginning of the next school year. The pilot will gather information about the purpose(s) of assessment and test different assessment tools. OSPI and DEL are partnering on the pilot project. An OSPI FTE (from the assessment group) will be assigned to DEL to work on the pilot.

Bette Hyde and Bob Hamilton met with the Tribes. Bob shared that the Tribes communicated that benchmarks should be about what we know about children and should be welcoming. Included should be family participation, social-emotional development and health. Where children came from and where they are going should both be considered. Assessment could be one year or a multiple year assessment. Key to successful benchmarks will be the right level and kind of involvement from early

learning, families and schools. Bette and Bob are writing a summary document regarding the status of the benchmarks.

Quality Education Council

Randy Dorn and Bette Hyde both serve on the QEC. Five questions were asked of the Attorney General regarding early learning in basic education; there is no response yet. Representatives Skip Priest and Pat Sullivan provided an early learning proposal.

National Governors' Association Conference

Representatives from the Governor's Office and Departments of Health, Social and Health Services, and Early Learning recently attended this conference. They joined representatives from 38 other states and territories working on how partners can relate together. Washington's attendees will be inventorying services for children and families to see departmental overlap and meeting to identify shared legislative packages all three agencies can promote.

Early Learning Plan

The Early Learning Plan will incorporate and build on the Kids Matter framework and previous work from Washington Learns as well as discussions at the Early Learning Advisory Council. The plan will be a picture of what we in Washington State want for children and families. Things will need to be phased in. Work groups (e.g. early care and education, social emotional, parent partnerships, financing) are looking at indicators. There is a draft vision statements and set of principles. An outreach plan is being developed. In mid October, content will be available for input through the web and at in-person meetings. It is critical people give input, even after December 1st.

Early Learning Partnership Joint Resolution

Every 90 days there will be a public progress report; the first one will be out in November. At the mid-year point, DEL, OSPI and Thrive by Five will ask for recommendations from the public regarding how to improve the partnership joint resolution. The resolution didn't acknowledge providers enough; this will be addressed in the first 90 day report. It was suggested that afterschool be included; DEL licenses programs for children up to 12 years of age.

Preparation for Next Quarterly Meeting

What worked well today? What should be changed for next meeting?

- Need bigger room
- Thank you advocates!
- Should hear more from providers

What topic(s) would you like to discuss?

- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment process
- Early Learning Plan
- Infant Toddler activities
- Preschool-3rd grade partnerships
- Early Learning and Development Benchmarks
- Federal items
- Local coalition, grassroots engagement

The next meeting will occur in January prior to the start of legislative session.