

Open Meeting Minutes

Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

June 1, 2022, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Present: Ann Terrell, Barbara Bales (designee), Cailin O'Connor, Danielle Willams, Daria Hall, Dea Wright, Deborah Rathermel, Dr. Jill Underly, Duy Nguyen, Emilie Amundson , Erin Arango-Escalante, Jennie Mauer, Joan Beck, John Ashley, Jose Martinez (designee), Kathy Mullally, Katie Roberts (designee), Kelly Matthews, Lana Nenide, Lupe Martinez, Mark Tyler, Ruth Schmidt, Salvador Carranza, Stephany Pruitt, Suzette Mayotte

Excused: Jillian Clemens, Kia Kjensrud, Morna Foy, Peng Her, Rebecca Larson (designee), Rolf Wegenke,

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Duy Nguyen. Duy asked for a motion to approve the March 2, 2022, meeting minutes. Jose Martinez made a motion to approve, and John Ashley seconded the motion. The Council voted to approve the minutes.

Co-Chair Welcome and Updates

The DCF Secretary and the State Superintendent provided updates and other early childhood initiatives happening to the Council. Secretary Amundson gave highlights from the Leadership Council on Early Years' (LCEY) April meeting, the kick-off of the Parent and Caregiver Equity Advisory Cabinet (PCEAC) on April 9, and the multiple celebrations held in the last month honoring those who work to support Wisconsin's children and families. Dr. Underly offered a summary of the Head Start visits held in May at Next Door in Milwaukee and Lac du Flambeau. She also shared information regarding the May 18 WCCAA discussion, which centered around Fund 80 and the need for and progress of a funding guidance document.

Highlighting Key Projects and Initiatives

Sherry Kimball presented on the three online study circles held in connection with the American Indian Studies Program. She shared what was learned through this program, what is planned for next year, and the following article suggested by David J. O'Connor -- <https://www.hmhco.com/blog/teaching-culture-vs-teaching-culturally>.

Barb Novak enlightened the Council with details about DPI's Reading Advisory Council (<https://dpi.wi.gov/wi-reads>) and Early Literacy Task Force, focused on early reading and, more specifically, family and community engagement around reading/literacy.

Erin Arango-Escalante and Kaitlin Ferrick updated the Council on DCF's Project Growth initiative and its two main programs—Partner Up! and Dream Up! Both grant programs are designed to encourage collaboration, bring new players and funding sources to the forefront, and to diversify revenue. Dream Up! is kicking off right now. More information can be found at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/projectgrowth/dream-up/cohorts-1-2>.

Erin Arango-Escalante updated the council on a new DCF Birth to 3 Child Care Pilot. This pilot supports the cost of child care for children participating in the Birth to 3 Program. The initiative is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Participating families may receive up to 12 months of financial support towards the cost of care at their child care provider. The pilot will take place in Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, and Rock counties starting August 2022. The program will expand statewide on October 1, 2022.

PDG Needs Assessment and Wisconsin Birth-to-Five Strategic Plan

An update on the process and progress of the federally required comprehensive needs assessment and the B-5 strategic plan was provided to the Council. Unlike previous plans which were child care heavy, the strategic plan will set the Department's vision for the next few years and will center on the collaboration of multiple systems, services, and supports necessary for building and sustaining a comprehensive and equitable B-5 system. Discussion ensued around ECAC's influence on DCF's strategic plan and the potential impact election results may have on the plan. The steps necessary and proposed timetable were discussed. DCF hopes to present the plan in early 2023.

Public Comment

No public comment was submitted.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

The Council was reminded of the date and time for the next meeting, September 7, 9:00 am until noon. The meeting format options will be assessed and communicated at a later date. Duy Nguyen asked for a motion to adjourn. Jose Martinez made a motion to adjourn, and Katie Roberts seconded the motion. The council voted to adjourn the meeting at 11 am.