

Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)
Open Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Virtual Zoom Meeting

<https://dcfwi.zoom.us/j/85441461208?pwd=OWJvMFFrNDVtNG50U2x0VmFIMmFVQT09>

Present: Barbara Bales (designee), Cailin O'Connor, Charlene Mouille, Danielle Williams, Daria Hall, Dea Wright, Deborah Rathermel, Dr. Jill Underly, Duy Nguyen, Emilie Amundson, Erin Arango-Escalante, Jennie Mauer, Jillian Clemens, John Ashley, Kathy Mullally, Katie Roberts (designee), Kia Kjensrud, Lana Nenide, Matricia Patterson, Morna Foy, Ruth Schmidt, Suzette Mayotte

Excused: Joan Beck, Jose Martinez (designee), Kelly Matthews, Lupe Martinez, Mark Tyler, Peng Her, Salvadore Carranza, Stephany Pruitt

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Duy Nguyen. After determining that Katie Roberts was the council member that seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting of June 1 (a piece previously missing from the minutes), Duy asked for a motion to approve the June 1, 2022, meeting minutes. Katie Roberts made the motion to approve, and Barbara Bales seconded the motion. The council voted to approve the minutes.

Co-Chair Welcome and Updates

- The Department of Children and Families Secretary, Emilie Amundson, welcomed Charlene Mouille, President and CEO of the United Way of Wisconsin, and Matricia Patterson, Executive Director of the Supporting Families Together Association, to the council.
- Secretary Amundson gave highlights from the Leadership Council on Early Years' August meeting—four new Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Workforce Innovation Grants were awarded to programs addressing child care challenges; a presentation was collaboratively given by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and Department of Health Services (DHS) describing the systems and supports available to families with children with disabilities; and the personal story of Trisha Murphy, a parent who has accessed our programs for the betterment of her family, was generously shared.
- Emilie announced the nomination and selection of Erin Arango-Escalante, DCF's Division of Early Care and Education Administrator, as an Aspen Institute "Ascend Fellow." Ascend Fellows work across a variety of sectors to create and sustain comprehensive, equitable, effective and inclusive birth-to-five systems within their states.

- State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly discussed DPI's work in advancing civic literacy and engagement by expanding support for civics educators. In partnership with Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs) throughout the state, a model civics-focused instructional scope and sequence is being developed for kindergarten through high school learners.
- Dr. Underly referred the council to DPI's literacy website, <https://dpi.wi.gov/reading>, to access professional learning materials regarding foundational skills instruction for 4K through grade 2 and to look for upcoming modules about asset-based early literacy-specific family engagement, available mid-September for piloted use during 2022-23.
- Dr. Underly examined the financial support provided to public schools in recent years and shared news of a budget proposal for significant increases.
- Dr. Underly discussed the joys and trials of returning to school this year, as witnessed, in part, through on-site visits.

Update on the Early Childhood Strategic Plan

Erin Arango-Escalante provided an overview of the Early Childhood Birth-to-Five (B-5) Strategic Plan. The ECAC will use the strategic planning process and a review of the agency budget recommendations to develop the ECAC recommendations for the Governor. Phase I of the plan involves the creation of the B-5 system-level strategic framework and the development of the plan as it relates to DCF programs and services. Phase I is expected to be completed by the year's end. Phases II and III of the strategic plan will focus on the collaboration of multiple cross-agency systems, services, and supports necessary for building and sustaining a comprehensive and equitable B-5 system. DPI's vision has been built into the strategic planning process, will be included in the strategic framework discussed in Phase I, and will become more visible in Phases II and III. In an effort to ensure alignment between the strategic plan and ECAC recommendations, three ad hoc meetings will be held prior to the December 14 ECAC Full Council Meeting.

Strategic Plan Visioning

Consilience Group, LLC, the vendor selected to lead the B-5 Strategic Plan, was introduced. The council met the key team members and learned of the organization's experience and commitment to the wellbeing of communities through the integration of equitable people-centered services. Consilience Group stressed the importance of defining a "North Star," the common essence in which to move forward and build a stronger system together. A visioning exercise was conducted to capture key common themes of the ECAC group. All input from the exercise will be accumulated, and the results will serve as the starting point for the strategic framework and upcoming ad hoc meetings. Decisions will be made based on the feedback and conversations shared in the ad hoc meetings. Council members unable to attend the meetings will be given the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas too. Final ECAC recommendations will be determined at the ECAC Full Council Meeting on December 14.

Public Comment

No public comment was submitted.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

- Excitement was shared regarding the proposal to distribute Wisconsin Shares subsidies based on a part-time or full-time need for care, in lieu of authorized hours.
- Concern was expressed about the possibility of a fiscal cliff resulting from the discontinuation of Child Care Counts funding and the dramatic impact it may have on the state.
- The Council was informed that the date of the next full council meeting will be changed from December 7 to December 14, 2022, 9:00 am until noon. Members were asked to look for calendar updates and invitations to this meeting and to that of the upcoming ad hoc meetings.
- Duy Nguyen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Ashley made a motion to adjourn, and Matricia Patterson seconded the motion. The council voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 am.