



**Governor's Early Childhood
Advisory Council (ECAC)
Full Council Meeting**

September 27, 2023

Welcome!

Reminders:

- Please ensure your Zoom name is accurate for attendance purposes and to help the Council to determine quorum.
- If unable to change your name, please enter your name in the chat feature.
- We will have a public comment portion at the end of the meeting.



New Member Welcome



ECAC Meeting Agenda

- **Call to Order, Agenda Review, Approval of Minutes**
- **New Member Welcome**
- **Co-Chair Welcome & Updates**
- **Budget Updates & Recent Legislative Activity**
- **Member Discussion**
- **Public Comment**
- **Next Steps and Closing Remarks**



Co-Chair Welcome & Updates



State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly



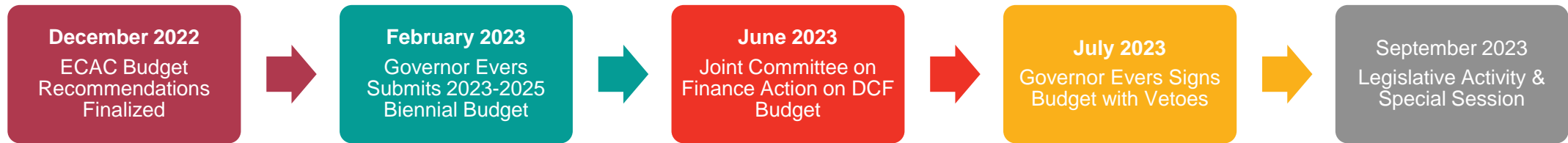
DCF Secretary Emilie Amundson



Budget Updates & Recent Legislative Activity



Budget: Timeline of Activities



Child Care Bills

- **Legislators have proposed a package of child care-related bills that would:**
 - Create a new regulation category of Large Family Child Care
 - Lower the minimum age for assistant child care teachers or school-age group leaders to 16, and remove restrictions on when/under what conditions an assistant child care teacher or school-age group lead can provide sole supervision to children



Child Care Bills

- Loosen child to staff ratios and increase the maximum number of children per age in group centers
- Increase the number of children certified family child care programs can serve
- Create a revolving loan fund for child care facility renovations (WEDC)
- Create a tax-advantaged child care reimbursement account (DFI)



Legislative Activity: DCF Feedback

- DCF was invited to testify for information
 - DCF iterated its statutory and regulatory role of ensuring the health and safety of children.
 - Higher ratios and lowered age requirements would put Wisconsin out of alignment with national recommendations and accrediting agencies.
- Further, these bills do not address affordability or workforce compensation
 - The bills do not address the lack of funding for Child Care Counts and the need for continued investment in the child care workforce.



Special Session on Workforce Challenges

- **The Governor called the legislature into a special session to address workforce challenges, including:**
 - \$365 million investment in child care, including over \$340 million for Child Care Counts and \$22 million for Partner Up!
 - Creating a paid family and medical leave program
 - Investment in higher education
 - Investment to strengthen key workforce sectors, including nursing and teaching
- **Last week, the legislature adjourned the special session without taking action on the Governor's proposal and said they would be making their own workforce proposal**



Child Care Counts

- **To understand the impact of reductions in Child Care Counts funding and the anticipated impact of Child Care Counts ending, we are**
 - Tracking data on child care program closure, complaints, and changes in child care capacity
 - Working with the UW-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty on a survey of all providers in their final Child Care Counts funding application



Member Discussion



Member Discussion:

- What questions or reflections do you have?
- Are there other data elements that you are interested in?
- What unexpected allies or strategies have been helpful?
- How do we sustain our energy and efforts during this time?



Public Comment

Please note there are two ways to make comment:

- Raise hand in Zoom and come off mute.
- Add your comment to the chat box.



Next Steps & Closing Remarks



2023 ECAC Full Council Meeting Schedule

- December 6, 2023, 9:00a-12:00p
- 2024 Meeting Schedule TBA



Thank you!

