



MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2018

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Type of Meeting: Monthly Meeting
Facilitator(s): Victor Cardenas, Stacie Marez, Lindsay Boswell, Maria Vasquez, Peter Finch, Angela Abrams
Notetaker(s): Luis Gomez
Location: Catholic Charities, Growing Hope Conference Room, 5201 Tieton Drive, Yakima WA 98908

Present:

Lindsay Boswell, YVCF
Manuel Villafan, Catholic Charities
Victor Cardenas, Child Care Aware of Central WA
Stacie Marez, ESD 105
Peter Finch, WVSD
Maria Vasquez, Catholic Charities
Angela Abrams, DEL
Luis Gomez, YVCF
Robin Rankin Coffin
Debra Penny Jim, Yakama Nation CCDF
Gloria Jones-Dance, Heritage University
Cynthia Juarez, ESD 105
Crystal Kuneki, Yakama Nation CCDF
Keri Jo, Livingston, EPIC
Stacie Marez, ESD 105
Melissa Matczak, YVC
Leanne Morse, WVSD

Danielle Rasmussen, Catholic Charities
Emily Reed, Memorial Hospital
Trissa Schiffner, Catholic Charities
Justine Telakish, Yakama Nation CCDF
Jan Thoemke, YVFWC
Marilyn VanOostrum, Memorial Hospital
Mary Ann Walker, ABCD
Maggie Mendoza, ESD 105
Cindy Cholico, ESD105
Katherine Bell, Catholic Charities
Brittany Tyler, Catholic Charities
Danielle Delange, YSD
Kelly Horowitz, YSD
Christy Arenson, Catholic Charities
Linda Eberle, Retired Teacher
Monica Rodriguez, Catholic Charities
Heather McCrary, YFWC
Monica Rodriguez, Child Care Aware of Central WA

Video/Phone:

Jeri Young, EVSD
Sandra Linde, Astria Health
Cecilia Gonzalez, La Casa Hogar

Lowell Murpree, Kittitas County Early Learning Coalition
Susan Martin, Consultant

Welcome:

The regularly scheduled coalition monthly meeting at the Catholic Charities, Growing Hope Conference Room began at 2:10. Manuel Villafan from Catholic Charities welcomed everyone.

Advocacy Day Update:

Victor and Claudette participated in this year's Early Learning Advocacy Day with Thrive Washington in Olympia on January 25, 2018. Both were able to speak with state legislators and staff about issues and topics regarding early learning. Victor shared a summary of each meeting with the five legislators they met, including:

Senator Judy Warnick (District 13):

- Talked about increasing reimbursement rates and ECEAP slots and she seems to be receptive to the issue
- The Senator referred them to other legislators who were more knowledgeable about early learning issues

Representative Gina McCabe (District 14):

- Gina McCabe was unable to meet, but her staff member Ben was available to meet with them
- Ben seemed interested in early learning issues and shared his own experience about childcare
- The staffer wrote down notes to share with Representative McCabe

Senator Curtis King (District 14):

- Representative King was unable to meet

Representative Tom Dent (District 13):

- He was the speaker at the event Thrive Washington was having
- He seems to be the most knowledgeable about early learning issues and topics
- They had a great conversation about ECEAP slots and the bill that was introduced.
- He expressed interest in the KCELC work

Representative Norm Johnson (District 14):

- He referred them to Tom Dent about early learning topics
- Victor has spoken to the representative at least once more in the past year
- They thanked him for attending the Key Leaders Luncheon event this past October

Representative Bruce Chandler (District 15):

- He mentioned that he is in support of early learning
- He referred them to Representative Tom Dent for more information
- He shared his own personal experience and the impact it has on his grandchildren

- He seems consistent with what he has mentioned before about ECEAP
- He had a question about WCCC reimbursements rates and ECEAP slots

Stacie mentioned that the [Children's Alliance website](#) is a great resource for legislative news and anyone can join their [email list](#). The State of Washington also offers a useful [website](#) to track bills.

Danielle shared her own similar experience with legislators and advocacy day as part of WASA the last week of January 2018.

Strategic Planning:

The coalition's mission and vision have been revised and voted on by representatives from voting organizations through an online poll. The executive committee will move on and work on identifying the goals, approaches, and action teams of the coalition. There will be more strategic planning updates in the next coalition meeting in March.

Governance:

Stacie's and Peter's term in the executive committee expires on February 14, 2018. Coalition members voted to extend Stacie's term until executive members complete the strategic planning process in May 2018. Coalition members also voted to have Peter serve another term of three years in the executive committee.

The executive committee is looking for nominations for an executive member to represent the Lower Valley and another member to start in May 2018 when Stacie's position expires. The committee would also like to include representation of the Yakama Nation following the rules and laws of the Nation.

Marilyn mentioned that being part of the executive is a great leadership opportunity for the person and their organization they represent.

ELAC Update:

Peter updated coalition members from his meeting with legislators and Tony Hanson from the Department of Commerce on February 6, 2018. The Washington State Department of Commerce is offering [community capital grants](#) and loans to help communities build and improve public facilities. A school district or private organizations, like EPIC, can apply to expand early learning facilities in the Yakima Valley. The application guidelines and additional information can be found on their [website](#).

The open position for the ELAC's Hispanic Affairs has been filled by [Leonor Barrientes de Maldonado](#) from the Prosser School District and United Way of Benton-Franklin was part of this month's meeting.

DCYF Updates:

Angela Abrams from DEL gave coalition members updates and answered questions about the transition from DEL to DCYF. DCYF has launched a [website](#) that is updated with details and updates about the department. The website also includes a [video](#) from Secretary Ross Hunter about the organizational structure of the department and a [webpage](#) for open job positions. The department is working on restructuring regions to improve the way the department can serve families.

There was a question about what the impact on DEL Yakima office from the DCYF transition. Angela mentioned that DEL is adjusting to different regional situations and timelines.

DEL Compensation Workgroup:

The [compensation workgroup](#) was created in July 2017 to develop recommendations for legislators regarding childcare workforce development. The workgroup has created a [report](#) that includes the following topics, increase childcare workforce wages, reduce turnover, educator recruitment, and, maintaining the diversity in the current workforce.

The Early Childhood Education Workforce Council (ECE) meetings are open to the public and more information can be found on their [website](#).

Angela brought up the topic of substitute pools for early learning facilities and talked about issues facilities have about educator shortages. There were questions about possible training for substitute educators and Angela mentioned that YVC in partners with DEL offer classes for the substitute pool program.

Good of the Order Announcements:

Emily updated the members on the home visiting forum event that happened on January 31, 2018. She mentioned that this year's forum had small group facilitators instead keynote speakers.

Peter updated the members of the West Valley PreK workshop event on January 11, 2018, event and the YVC [Teachers Education BAS](#) degree program. The program is aimed at working paraeducators and is currently taking 35 students with a minimum of 90 college credits.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.