

Early Childhood Stakeholder Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

Time: 9am - 10am

Location: Via Zoom

Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

Erin Schreiber, Grays Harbor County Public Health; Erin Mountin, DCYF; Sheila Kavanaugh, Visions for Early Learning; Shawn Thurman, South Sound Parent to Parent; Kim Smith, South Sound Parent to Parent; Gary Burris, Child Care Action Council; Molly Leithold, GH Early Learning Coalition; Stefani Joesten, Grays Harbor County Public Health; Rochel Pardon, Save the Children; Chris Miller, Mayor City of McCleary; Darby Carrol, Aberdeen SD ECEAP/Preschool; Anne Rothert, ESD113; Brad Thomas, Summit Pacific Medical Center

Focus of Stakeholder Group:

Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems (**ECDHS**)- *Initiative focused on building early childhood systems to improve/strengthen the health and well-being of young children and their families, especially in communities with high levels of childhood poverty.*

AGENDA ITEMS:	DISCUSSION and NEXT STEPS:
<p><i>Completed and Ongoing Work - will continue with local Coordinated Access workgroup</i></p> <p>GOAL 1: <i>Learn from resource navigators about the landscape of current resource access and early childhood system work.</i></p> <p>Strategy - Hold a focus group/meeting to map out resource access points, access barriers, and resource eligibility or requirements.</p> <p>Priorities and Activities - Continue to participate in statewide Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) work, exploring ways to improve referral pathways. Continue partnering with Help Me Grow (HMG) WA to improve local resource information and referral pathways, and explore local use of HMG.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are effective methods in regard to organizing, maintaining, and circulating resources to parents/caregivers and providers?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Link to website/resource directory○ Brochure with QR code links to resources○ Other ideas??• Links to the Grays Harbor Early Learning (GHLEL) coalition website were shared in the chat.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Specific attention was drawn to the following pages:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Parent Resources▪ Stakeholder Group▪ Parent Advisory

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members • The GHEL Coordinated Access workgroup typically meets the 4th Wednesday of each month from 3:30 – 4:30 pm via Zoom. Contact Sheila Kavanaugh if interested in participating: kav.consulting231@gmail.com. • The resource collection form is being updated to include more options for eligibility requirements and other pertinent information about how services can be accessed. The form will be finalized at the upcoming coordinated access meeting and ready to share out to the coalition and community in 2025. • Stakeholders were encouraged to provide input – what resources are missing? Ideally, the resource directory will include early childhood support as well as medical/dental services, and other identified needs based on the Parent/Caregiver survey results.
<p><i>Ongoing Work - will continue through Stakeholder group, local and regional early learning coalitions, and GPH</i></p> <p>GOAL 2: <i>Learn from parents and caregivers of the prenatal to three population about the resources they want to connect to and the ways in which they want to connect; a focus on parent/caregiver voice.</i></p> <p>Strategy - Parent Advisory Board</p> <p>Priorities - Regular connections with parents/caregivers to identify gaps/barriers in local resource navigation and access systems and get input and feedback into early childhood.</p> <p>Activity - How and Where do we connect? What is the lowest barrier way to make space for parent/caregiver voice/input? Current parent council's and coalitions, Early Childhood programs, Play and Learn Groups, Storytimes, ?? Who are we missing?</p>	<p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erin S. provided a recap on the Parent Advisory efforts thus far and the benefits and challenges associated with parent/caregiver engagement. • Rochel shared reaching out to collaborate with agencies that work closely with the elder/senior population is a good strategy for not only community by-in but increased parent/caregiver engagement. Brad shared 24% of Grays Harbor's population is senior citizens. • The group discussed ideas/strategies on how to increase parent/caregiver engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meet families where they're at – where they already feel comfortable. Better results when there is a targeted invite and maybe less formal spaces like a playgroup. Ideas included:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ECEAP Family Policy Council groups ▪ Library Storytime – Elma has group for Spanish speaking families – check to see what other library branches offer. ▪ PTO/PTA groups ▪ Family Engagement Nights (Washington Elementary School – Anne) ▪ Local Food Banks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to be equitable across the county to hear perspectives from a diverse group when there are barriers like transportation, lack of internet, and language access? • Shawn asked about any connections with the Chehalis Tribe and their presence in Oakville. Molly will follow up with the Chehalis Tribe representative. • We need parent/caregiver input – it was decided to keep the survey open for continuous feedback. Stefani will update the survey flyer to share out and highly encouraged stakeholders to distribute to families.
<p>GOAL 3: <i>Design an early childhood access system that will include a cost model and sustainability plan.</i></p> <p>Strategy - Convene a stakeholder group of community leaders; from within and outside of current local early childhood systems and programming to assess the current state of early childhood system within the community (Early Learning Nation Collective - Community Action Assessment Tool and WA Early Learning Coordinated Plan).</p> <p>Priorities - Raise awareness and support of early childhood systems and supports across Grays Harbor County.</p> <p>Activity - Create and launch a public awareness campaign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we want to highlight and “raise up”? • The importance and benefits of investing in early childhood? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stakeholders discussed ideas/locations regarding an early childhood campaign to increase public awareness on the importance of a connected early childhood system and the positive impact early learning has on the community. • Erin M. shared her experiences being involved in a positive norm campaign and suggested locations where people regularly need to go: • Grocery stores, gas stations, laundry facilities and communication materials could include window clings, grocery bags, flyers, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was suggested that highlighted information could include a more conservative approach showing how

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the programs across our county are currently doing and have to offer (positive community norms)? • What channels for promotion? Social media? Newspaper? Events? Agency presentations/elevator speech? • What is our ask? How do we sustain any momentum? What does our road map look like - where are we going? • How should progress be measured – what are the benchmark indicators? 	<p>early learning opportunities are tied to school readiness, which could be correlated to test scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Erin S. encouraged stakeholders to think about campaign messaging – catch phrases/tag lines. • Brad shared he is interested in helping with the public awareness campaign moving forward. • Rochel shared how communities can be centered around the local schools/school district and the benefits of partnerships across the county for an effective campaign. • Anne suggested reaching out to Spanish radio broadcasting stations for airtime/interviews as a communication outlet. • The group discussed the use of QR codes and how some may be speculative of that type of technology. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include website URL and concise messaging on communication materials.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stefani shared results from the parent/caregiver feedback survey – linked here English or Spanish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey will remain open. • Stefani will update the flyer and re-circulate to the stakeholder group, coalition members, etc. • Based on survey results there needs to be increased emphasis on reaching non-English (Spanish) speaking families as well as a broader representation of families across the county.

Future Meetings/Next Steps:

- Reconvene in 2025 – keep meeting schedule for 2nd Wednesday of each month from 9:00 – 10:00 am via Zoom. Erin S. will send out the calendar invite.
- [Skagit County’s early learning coalition](#) – Children’s Council (mentor role) will asked to present at an upcoming meeting to share their success stories and challenges.