



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Leadership Council on Early Years (LCEY)**

United Community Center (UCC)  
Latino Arts Auditorium  
1028 South 9th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

February 26, 2020  
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Governor Evers, First Lady Kathy Evers, Emilie Amundson (DCF), May yer Thao (WHEDA), Joel Brennan (DOA), Barb Van Haren (DPI), Rebecca Murray (CANPB), Linda Hall (OCMH), Dan Hereth (DSPS), Kevin Carr (DOC), Missy Hughes (WEDC), Kathy Blumenfeld (DFI), Julie Willems Van Dijk (DHS), Caleb Frostman (DWD), Mark Afable (OCI)

**Others Present:** Laura Gutierrez (UCC), Stephanie Weix (First Lady), Katie Domina (Governor's Office), Tia Torhorst (DOA), Danielle Williams (DWD), Tracy Luber (WEDC), Betsy Wood (WEDC), Mike Woicekowski (WEDC), Erin Arango-Escalante (DCF), Tom McCarthy (DCF), Danielle Melfi (DCF), Amanda Reeve (DCF)

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Governor Evers and Department of Children and Families Secretary Emilie Amundson delivered introductory remarks and extended a thank you to the United Community Center (UCC) for being an example of collective impact and serving as a host for today's meeting.

**Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Overview and LCEY Roles**

- Erin Arango-Escalante provided an overview about the Preschool Development Grant, the role of the Leadership Council on Early Years (LCEY), and the Wisconsin vision for all children to have access to high-quality, affordable child care that meets family needs that highlights regional needs assessments and feedback from stakeholders through listening sessions to create a strategic plan for that Wisconsin vision.
- Secretary Amundson and Governor Evers discussed innovation grant funding, the child care rating system, YoungStar and how it is connected to parent need for quality child care.

**UCC Tour**

- Laura Gutierrez, Executive Director of UCC, provided an overview about UCC serving 1,300 students through education and that all programs involve an aspect of learning before taking members on a tour.

**Reactions and Group Discussion**

- LCEY members engaged in reactions to their tour and discussion about meeting children's needs, trauma experienced by children, centralizing services in one location to reduce stress and increase convenience, UCC's business model to provide generational impact and extend this model throughout the state, how agencies can be useful to the workforce with proactive

education and training, and engaging in community development, and the critical need to build strong families for kids to succeed.

### **Wrap Up and Next Steps**

- Secretary Amundson delivered closing remarks highlighting the role of family, community and places like UCC in understanding the connection between family and community, while including the voices of those we serve in the decisions we make, and UCC is an example of what we can learn when we braid funding together to provide services and resources for communities.

### **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned.

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