



Leadership Council on Early Years (LCEY)

September 16, 2020

10:00a.m.-12:00 p.m.

YouTube Link for the Public: <https://youtu.be/C5omk9kXWIA>

Members Present: Governor Tony Evers, First Lady Kathy Evers, Joaquin Altoro (WHEDA), Emilie Amundson (DCF), Peter Barca (DOR), Joel Brennan (DOA), Caleb Frostman (DWD), Catherine Haberland (DFI), Linda Hall (OCMH), Missy Hughes (WEDC), Mary Kolar (DVA), Anastasia Leffel (DHS), Diana Maas (DOT), Sara Meaney (Tourism), Rebecca Murray (CANPB), Joel Nilestuen (DOT), Randy Romanski (DATCP), Craig Thompson (DOT), Barb Van Haren (DPI)

Others Present: Colleen Rinken (DVA), Tracy Luber (WEDC), Michael Woicekowski (WEDC), Erin Arango-Escalante (DCF), Kristen Burton (DCF), Andrea Cammilleri (DCF), Nadya Pérez-Reyes (DCF)

Welcome and Introduction

Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Amundson delivered a welcoming statement:

- Overview of agenda and opening remarks about the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) and the Leadership Council on Early Years (LCEY).
- LCEY as a state agency critical engagement partner for dot connecting around children and family policy across Wisconsin.
- February LCEY meeting looked at whole family solutions through the lens of the United Community Center (UCC).
- Impact of child care accessibility and affordability on women in the workforce
- Review of minutes from February and September meetings at the next LCEY meeting and materials will be posted to the LCEY-PDG website.

Child Care Landscape

- Erin Arango-Escalante provided an overview of the early care and education landscape, role of child care in Wisconsin's economy, and the PDG framework: equity and inclusion, access, affordability, quality, and workforce.

Preschool Development Grant Update

Andrea Cammilleri presented about:

- the PDG Sandbox and interactive data and resources and the needs assessment from data collected in the PDG Sandbox;
- PDG virtual listening session overview reviewing the questions discussed and participation of 420 unique individuals and 31 repeat individuals;
- the drafting of the PDG statewide strategic plan and the public comment period from October 7-21;
- the development of the regional workgroup plans to work with their communities; and
- application for an additional round of PDG funding.

Child Care Perspectives

- Secretary Amundson introduced Secretary Frostman, Secretary and CEO Hughes, and Director Hall.
- Secretary Frostman provided remarks related to the connection between workforce investment and the necessity of quality, affordable child care to the state's long-term economic health, increasing wages in the child care space, access and affordability of child care to allow workers in the economy to fully participate in the workforce, and improving the overall quality of life for Wisconsin's workforce.
- Secretary Hughes provided remarks about the impact of COVID-19 on the child care industry, role of parent and re-entry into the workplace, the critical importance of access to affordability and quality child care in order to have a strong economy, and learning through opportunities to talk with child care providers to understand the business model and a discussion with a CEO about women leaving the workplace and the acknowledgement that women help businesses grow.
- Director Hall presented about agency coordination to improve the children's mental health system, overview of the agenda looking at key points along the lifespan of a child to build strong emotional well-being, detailed scan of all programs for children's mental health, available resources, and youth-focused mental health listening sessions.

Reactions and Group Discussion

- LCEY members discussed perspectives related to child care and its value as a public good, interconnectedness between child care and businesses, child care as a major part of infrastructure and strong commerce, connecting child care, social services, and housing, how to best serve vulnerable and special needs children and families, integrating on-site child care into physical workplace space in the public sector, improve quality of life for employees with child care benefits, transportation barriers in limiting access to child care, how to strengthen women and families, and financial support for child care workforce recruitment and professional development.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Secretary Amundson thanked members for attending and delivered closing remarks about employer flexibility to pivot in child care and PDG efforts of the celebrate ECE campaign and distribution of supporting materials.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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