



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

February 18, 2020
9:30 - 11:30am

YouTube link for the Public: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXGX8sIByF8>

Members Present: Governor Tony Evers, First Lady Kathy Evers, Emilie Amundson (DCF), Peter Barca (DOR), Kathy Blumenfeld (DFI), Joel Brennan (DOA), Sheila Briggs (DPI), Dawn Crim (DSPS), Catherine Haberland (DFI), Linda Hall (OCMH), Missy Hughes (WEDC), Mary Kolar (DVA), Steven Little (DNR), Rebecca Murray (CANPB), Kevin Carr (DOC), Randy Romanski (DATCP), Craig Thompson (DOT), Colleen Rinken (DVA), Bettsy Wood (WEDC),

Others Present: Sherry Killins Stewart (New America- BUILD Initiative), Erin Arango-Escalante (DCF), Kristen Burton (DCF), Andrea Cammilleri (DCF), Tom McCarthy (DCF), Nadya Pérez-Reyes (DCF), Kandice Cole (DNR), Sarah Smith (OCI), Melissa Roberts (DOC), Stephanie Weix (GO), Danielle Williams (DWD), Michael Woicekowski (WEDC), Maria Guerra Lapacek (DOR), May yer Thao (WHEDA),

Welcome and Introductions

- Overview of agenda and recap of the purpose and partners of this group. State agency leaders collaborating to address the needs of Wisconsin's children and families through the lens of their agency, their stakeholders, their staff and their own family experiences.
- LCEY is a critical part of Wisconsin's Preschool Development Grant (PDG). Since our last meeting, we were awarded \$30M to implement our plan to advance Wisconsin's early care and education system over the next 3 years. LCEY written into the structure of PDG implementation.
- Please save the following dates for 2021 LCEY meetings:
 - Wednesday, April 21 -- Economic Development
 - Tuesday, July 20 -- Workforce
 - Thursday, September 30 -- Parents and Families

Black History Month Acknowledgement and Equity Theme

- This February, we celebrate the 45th year of Black History Month. Every year, a theme is chosen for Black History Month. This year's theme is "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity."
 - In the DCF items in the Governor's Budget, an overarching theme is to uplift and support the whole family. In child care, equity and inclusion must be at the forefront of decision-making about quality, access, affordability, workforce development, and supporting Black parents/caregivers and child care teachers and workers to provide representation, embrace diversity, and highlight the

identity and experiences of Black families.

- LCEY meeting focused on Equity. Equity is core to the work of the Preschool Development Grant and the Governor's vision. Reviewed current equity and inclusion focused work including: Governor's Council on Equity and Inclusion, Governor's Health Equity Council and the up and coming Early Childhood Equity Advisory Council through PDG and the Wisconsin Infant & Toddler Policy Project.

Approval of meeting minutes

- Motion to approve the 2/26/20 meeting minutes by Linda Hall. Second by Kevin Carr. Motion carried.
- Motion to approve the 9/16/20 meeting minutes by Rebecca Murray. Second by Randy Romanski. Motion carried.

Governor's budget investments in early childhood education

Governor Tony Evers highlighted three areas of his budget:

- An historic state investment in the early care and education workforce and system through the Child Care Strong program
- An expansion of successful evidence-based programs
- A focus on increasing access for our vulnerable families
- Governor Evers and Secretary Amundson reminded LCEY members this is the beginning. All members, working within their networks of advocates, will be needed to move this through.

Nadya Perez-Reyes, DCF Assistant Secretary, walked LCEY members through some of the budget pieces and how they fit into a framework of equity and sustainability.

- What's included - **3 big planks around ECE**
 - **First - Investing in the ECE workforce and infrastructure**
 - **Second - Expanding evidence-based programs**
 - **Third - Increasing access for vulnerable families**

Preschool Development Grant (PDG) update

Erin Arango-Escalante, DCF Division of Early Care and Education Administrator, shared key updates from the Preschool Development Grant including:

- Finalized needs assessment and strategic plan, thanks to the input of partners, local providers, state agencies, etc. No Cost Extension helps us finish this work in 2021.
- Received award of \$30M for implementation (2021-23) to meet the unique needs of all children and families.
- Reminder of PDG purpose and B-5 Early Childhood State System (ECSS) and how LCEY agencies' work affects the mixed delivery system, ECE programs, children and families. State system required to move the needle to actually get to our goals, to connect the dots.
- PDG Focus on Equity: We have to look at Access, Quality, Affordability and Workforce to get to equity and inclusion.

Sheila Briggs, Assistant Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction discussed their efforts around equity for young children and families

- At DPI, equity is at the center of everything. Highlighted 8 specific things to advance the

equity work across the department, below are some details related to Early Childhood:

- Professional Development to the field – annual conference with a deep focus on anti-bias and equity over the last three years
- Young Learners American Indian Language Revitalization Grant as part of PDG to address the needs of all 11 Tribes
- Culturally Responsive Tribal Early Childhood Project, joint effort with Tribes
- UW collaboration project focused on promotion of equal opportunity for all young children ages birth through 8 years

Equity in early childhood education: overview & discussion

- Components of Dr. Killins Stewart's presentation included:
 - Starting with the WHY of equity and asked LCEY members to consider their why
 - Discussions included opportunities for mobility, building wealth and support for communities.
 - Discussing the importance of DATA to ground us in the challenge, demonstrate the need to invest resources, and to motivate to action
 - Root causes
 - Internal vs. external work
 - Policy, practices, systems and money that work together for and against equity
 - Includes measurement with a focus on outcomes not intent
 - Highlighting the importance of FAMILY VOICE, and integrating real quotes/stories from Wisconsin families DCF collected during the PDG needs assessment
 - Family/beneficiary voice as a feedback loop that policy makers can translate into action, but it's important to check our assumptions and do that work in partnership with community members.

Questions and Discussion

- LCEY members responded to questions regarding policy and practices that may need changes to meet the needs of families such as reaching families with services where they are at, not where you are at. Reduce waiting lists, raise age limits on harmful products like tobacco, etc.
- Dr. Killins Stewart challenged Wisconsin to find the 10 places that aren't doing well and identify what is in the way, what's not available and build from there. It will ripple across the state. Go to them, learn from them, state data is only a starting point.

Wrap-up and next steps

Emilie Amundson, DCF Secretary, thanked all members for continuing to come to the table and engaging in these big questions as well as their willingness to tackle this important work. Final thoughts regarding our WHY for doing this work?

Next Steps

- For our next meeting, consider how would we go about identifying 10 priority communities? What are the metrics/indicators YOU would use to answer that question? These are 10 priority communities that need additional supports and resources to thrive. If we see these as part of the same story it could be very powerful. We will reach out in the spring to start to ask that question. On-screen questions:
 - How are you meeting the needs of children and families? What data do you collect and analyze to evaluate this?
 - How does your agency evaluate whether its work promotes **equitable** outcomes for children and families?
- Slides will be shared.
- Grant opportunities will continue to be shared, please do the same.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.