



**Leadership Council on Early Years Virtual Meeting
Virtual Meeting Minutes**

July 20, 2021
9:00 - 10:30am

YouTube Link for the Public: <https://youtu.be/NLumRX2iisU>

Members Present: Emilie Amundson (DCF), Kathy Blumenfeld (DFI), Kevin Carr (DOC), Linda Hall (OCMH), Mary Kolar (DVA), Rebecca Murray (CANPB)

Others Present: Angela James (DATCP), Bettsy Wood (WEDC), Colleen Rinken (DVA), Tatyana Warrick (DOA), May yer Thao (WHEDA), Dan Hereth (DSP), Danielle Williams (DWD), Deb Rathermel (DHS), Melissa Roberts (DOC), Tamara Mouw (DPI), Sarah Smith (OCI), Nadya Perez-Reyes (DCF), Margaret McMahon (DCF), Kaitlin Ferrick (DCF DECE), Andrea Cammilleri (DCF DECE), Kiley Komro (DCF)

Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Amundson offered an introduction:

- Invitation for all members and other observing participants to come together to support families and collaborate on the discussion surrounding supporting workforce development in early childcare in order to support working families.
- Approval of minutes from the last meeting. Rebecca Murray moved to approve the minutes, Linda Hall seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.
- Secretary Amundson reflected on the recent budget signed by the governor.
 - She recognized that though many priorities were not included in the final document, she encouraged member agencies to continue working towards developing the vision of supporting and expanding childcare infrastructure and building coalitions to implement these goals in the future.
 - The secretary invited members to highlight positive elements of the budget that she may have missed. An LCEY member expressed excitement about approved funding for school mental health.

Workforce Theory of Action

DCF Proposal for Collaborative Workforce Initiative

- Secretary Amundson introduced the presenters for this section: Kaitlin Ferrick and Andrea Cammilleri of the DCF Division of Early Care and Education.
- Secretary Amundson offered context surround the proposal as a part of a recurring theme of viewing childcare as an integral piece of workforce development and economic development infrastructure.

- This meeting was acknowledged as an opportunity for members to use their subject matter expertise and resources to support this program.
- Ferrick and Cammilleri gave a brief presentation on the initiative's three core strategies, including
 1. Pipeline strategies to encourage individuals to enter the ECE workforce
 2. Shared services networks allowing providers to pool staff, resources, and services while receiving support for business and educational operations
 3. Public-private partnerships to develop innovative, collaborative child care business models.
- The presentation focused particularly on public-private partnerships. Next, Ferrick and Cammilleri introduced two programs to recruit, retain, support, and maintain a high quality childcare workforce that fills the needs of the greater, capital W, Workforce driving the economy by allowing parents and family members to hold jobs.
 - The first program would include businesses contracting for slots with child care providers.
 - The second is intended for opening new or expanding existing programs through innovative partnerships.
- DCF's proposed innovative workforce grant opportunities would be accompanied by two supports:
 - A new childcare navigation resource toolkit (in development with collaboration from DCF, WECA and WEDC)
 - Regional Child Care Business Advocate staff to ease businesses' entry into supporting childcare for their employees and in their community.

Discussion and Planning Workshop

- LCEY members engaged with the presenters and secretary on potential gaps in funding and how to fill them.
- Members offered points of exploration for developing grant application criteria to prioritize reducing childcare deserts, addressing childcare related barriers for women entering certain workforce fields, and ensuring equity is incorporated into each stage of implementation.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

Secretary Amundson offered closing thoughts, expressed gratitude for each participating member for contributing to the discussion and planning process. She also extended an open invitation for members to reach out with additional ideas for collaboration on these programs.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am

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