



Wisconsin Child Care Advisory and Recommendation Exchange (WI-CARE)

November 5, 2025
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Attendees

Attended	First and Last Name	Location	Attended	First and Last Name	Location
	Annette Willburn	Milwaukee	X	Leighton Cooper	Milwaukee
	Bianca Hill	Milwaukee	X	Liz Tittle	Little Chute
X	Carol Jackomino	Rhineland	X	Margarita Ugalde	Madison
X	Cassie Koch	Madison	X	Rose Catlett	Middleton
X	Christine Larson Salerno	Milwaukee	X	Ryann Counce Barnes	Milwaukee
X	Cynthia Reineking	La Crosse		Sarah Smith	Menomonee Falls
X	Jay Martinez	Green Bay	X	Sheri Bishop	Pulaski
X	Jen Kalis	Onalaska	X	Suzette Mayotte	Ashland
X	Joahna Shelton	Spooner		Tammy Dannhoff	Oshkosh
X	Jolynn Wendt	Arcadia	X	Thanh Bui-Duquette	Eau Claire
	Jose Martinez	Milwaukee		Tricia Peterson	Juneau
X	Kahlila Fennel	Milwaukee	X	William Hill	Milwaukee
	Kishaunda Ransaw	Milwaukee			

DCF Staff: Andrea Cammilleri (tech/notes), Jillian Clemens (facilitator/notes), Daria Hall (facilitator/notes), Cassidy Peterson (tech), Elizabeth Valitchka (notes)

Marzano Research Facilitators: Carrie Germeroth, Sydney Mock

Meeting Notes

12:00 – 12:10

Welcome, Meeting Norms

Daria Hall, Policy Initiatives Advisor

DCF Division of Early Care and Education

Notes: Daria shared the agenda, read through the meeting norms, and reminded members about the anniversary progress update (results of members' feedback) that was provided in the October meeting.

12:10 - 12:55 **Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards Feedback & Usage Discussion**
Jillian Clemens, Head Start Collaboration Office Director
Carrie Germeroth and Sydney Mock, Marzano Research
+ All WI-CARE Members

Notes:

- States are required to develop and implement Early Learning Development Guidelines (ELDGs) by a federal law: the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014.
- Who uses Wisconsin's ELDGs, the WMELS?
 - 4K/5K
 - Child Care
 - Head Start
 - Early Childhood Special Education
 - Early Intervention
 - Pre-service Course Instructors
 - In-service Professional Development Trainers
- Three workforces interested in expanding their background on child development through use of ELDGs:
 - Home visiting
 - Family Resource Centers (Family Educators)
 - UW Extension Educators
- The WMELS Revision project goals are as follow:
 - **Goal 1:** Collaboratively develop updated Early Learning and Development Guidelines (ELDGs) that are aligned with feedback from system partners as well as current best practices and research for healthy early childhood physical and mental development and well-being.
 - **Goal 2:** Collaboratively update any contextual and supporting components of the ELDGs document (such as guiding principles, resources, etc.) that are aligned with current research and trends in the field.
 - **Goal 3:** Establish a revision process and cadence of revisions for future on-going management of the ELDGs.
 - **Goal 4:** Develop an on-going implementation plan and infrastructure for the newly revised ELDGs that meets the needs of all ECE professionals who work with young children and their families across a variety of settings.
- The project will include extensive partner engagement throughout.
- Marzano Research was the winner of a recent procurement process led by DCF with support from DPI and DHS. They are leading a discovery process including:
 - Literature review (existing documents and research)
 - Review of other states' ELDGs and current trends
 - Extensive partner engagement across Wisconsin
 - A summary report and presentation of findings

- Recommended enhancements to WI ELDGs and supporting content such as guiding principles, appendices, and other guidance
- Jillian introduced Carrie and Sydney from Marzano Research.
- Carrie facilitated a Zoom poll with the following questions and results:

Poll Questions:

1. **Do you currently use the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS) in your role?**
 - Yes: 12
 - No: 4
2. **How often do you use the WMELS? (select 1 option)**
 - Daily: 4
 - Weekly: 1
 - Monthly: 2
 - A few times a year: 7
3. **What do you use the WMELS for? (select all that apply)**
 - Individual learning plan development: 10
 - Observation/Notes: 6
 - Communicating with families: 3
 - Supporting curriculum use: 9
 - Supporting assessment use: 6
 - Training/professional development/coaching: 3
 - Program quality/YoungStar: 8
 - Other: 2 (as a reference for IEP development, to discuss the teaching cycle)

Discussion Questions:

1. Building off of the poll responses – describe further how you using the WMELS right now?
2. What would make the WMELS easier to use in your day-to-day work?
3. Which areas of guidance feel strongest, and which feel outdated or missing?
4. Where do WMELS overlap—or conflict—with other materials or resources you use?
5. If you could pick two or three supports (training, coaching, starter kits, planning templates, observation tools, family handouts, short videos, etc.), which would make the biggest difference—and what should they look like?
6. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Discussion Notes: Discussion notes were documented for Marzano Research to incorporate into findings from all WMELS listening sessions held in Fall 2025.

Action Items: The results of our Fall 2025 WMELS engagement will be reported in early 2026 on the [Early Learning and Development Guidelines Revision Project webpage](#).

11:55 – 12:00 **Wrap-Up, Public Comment and Next Steps**
Daria Hall, Policy Initiatives Advisor
DCF Division of Early Care and Education

Notes

- Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 2 at 12:00 p.m. to discuss Wisconsin Shares Subsidy Usage Resources

English

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Spanish

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