



**Governor's Early Childhood  
Advisory Council (ECAC)  
Full Council Meeting**

June 7, 2023

# Welcome!

## Reminders:

- Please ensure your Zoom name is accurate for attendance purposes and to help the Council to determine quorum.
- If unable to change your name, please enter your name in the chat feature.
- We will have a public comment portion at the end of the meeting.



# ECAC Meeting Agenda

- **Call to Order, Agenda Review, Approval of Minutes**
- **Co-Chair Welcome & Updates**
- **Budget Updates & Member Discussion**
- **ECAC Executive Order, Discussion & Information Gathering**
- **Public Comment**
- **Next Steps and Closing Remarks**



# Co-Chair Welcome & Updates



# DCF Secretary Emilie Amundson



# State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly



# Budget Updates



# ECAC Budget Recommendation: \$323,790,000

## ECE Workforce

- Child Care Counts: \$300,000,000

## Health and Well-Being of Families

- Children's Mental Health: \$8,790,000
- Family Foundations Home Visiting: \$10,000,000
- Extension of Medicaid Postpartum Coverage: N/A

## Family Support Services

- Family Resource Centers: \$5,000,000





# 2023-2025 Biennial Budget Recommendation: \$391,204,900

## ECE Workforce

- Child Care Counts: \$340,000,000

## Health and Well-Being of Families

- Children's Mental Health: \$3,291,000
- Family Foundations Home Visiting: \$5,200,000
- Extension of Medicaid Postpartum Coverage:  
Recommendation to extend coverage to 12 months and  
\$34,413,900

## Family Support Services

- Family Resource Centers: \$8,300,000



# Budget Updates

- ECAC Budget Recommendations that remain in the budget:
  - Child Care Counts
  - Family Resource Centers
  - Family Foundations Home Visiting
  - Social emotional learning contracts
  - Extension of Medicaid Postpartum Coverage



# Budget Updates

- Additional early childhood items that remain in the budget:
  - DCF:
    - Partner Up!
    - Wisconsin Shares
    - Online Licensing Application
    - Increasing Child Care contracts with Tribal regions
    - \$10M for new providers
  - DPI:
    - Revenue authority for schools - new spending
    - Early reading/literacy package
    - Special Education dollars
    - Mental health supports



# **Budget Updates: Member Discussion**



# 10-Minute Break



# **ECAC Executive Order Discussion & Information Gathering**



# Background: Refresher

- The Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) was formed as a result of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 requiring the formation of an early childhood State Advisory Council (SAC).
- Executive Order #269 on October 30, 2008 by Governor Doyle officially created the Council.
- The ECAC's mission is to “help ensure that all children and families in Wisconsin have access to quality early childhood programs and services.”



# Operations & Function

The Executive Order delineates required functions and activities:

- a) Conducting periodic statewide needs assessments;
- b) Identifying opportunities for collaboration and coordination among ECE programs and agencies;
- c) Developing recommendations across a range of ECE topics (e.g., increasing child care participation; data systems; professional development, etc.)
- d) Assessing the capacity and effectiveness of institutions of higher-education (IHE):
- e) Making recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards
- f) Holding public hearings and creating space for public comment
- g) Submitting strategic reports and reviewing implementation activities



EXECUTIVE ORDER # 269

Relating to the Creation of the Governor's  
State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin recognizes the importance of early childhood education and developmental programs and services for children from birth to school entry; and

WHEREAS, improving early childhood education and developmental programs will help more children arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin particularly recognizes the need to promote school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development through early childhood education and developmental programs; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a need for a coordinated and collaborative approach among Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs; and

WHEREAS, the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (hereinafter "Public Law 110-134") requires that the Governor establish a council to serve as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care for children from birth to school entry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM DOYLE, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, and specifically by Section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby:

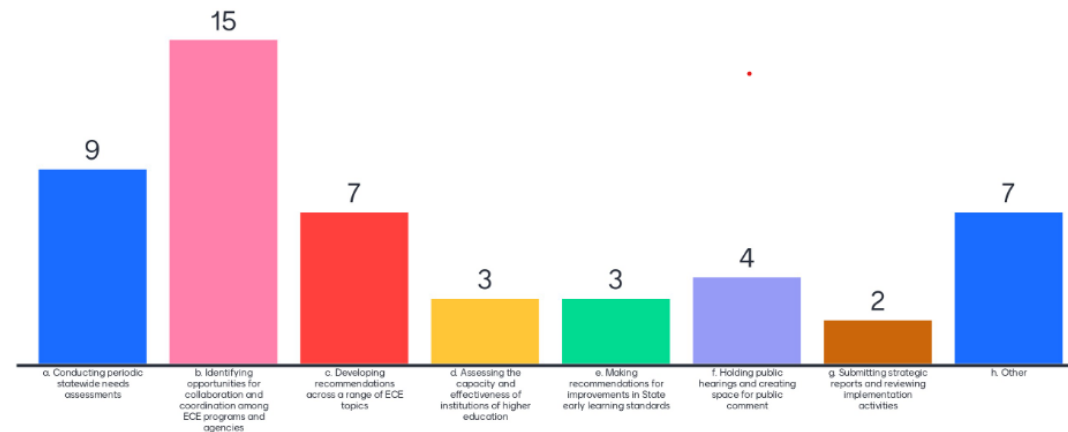
1. Create the Governor's State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (hereinafter "Council"); and
2. Provide that the Governor shall designate an individual to coordinate the activities of the Council, as described in Public Law 110-134; and
3. Provide that the Council shall consist of members appointed in accordance with Public Law 110-134, and that the Council may include additional relevant members concerned with early childhood education and care, as the Governor may so designate; and
4. Direct that the Council shall meet the criteria and carry out the duties and functions prescribed in Public Law 110-134, in addition to any responsibilities assigned to the Council by the Governor, including the following:
  - a. Conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the State; and
  - b. Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among State agencies responsible for administering such programs; and
  - c. Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early





# Mentimeter: Results

Which functions would you like to provide more attention to for the Council's work going forward?



# Mentimeter: Results

Please rank your preferences with how we engage and discuss content:



# **Context: Activities In-Process**



# Needs Assessment:

**Executive Order 4a: "Conduct a periodic needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the State."**

## Recent Activities:

- Wisconsin completed comprehensive Needs Assessments in 2020, 2021, and 2022 as part of the Preschool Development Grant Birth – Five requirements.
- In partnership with the ECAC, we plan to update our Needs Assessment again in 2024 in alignment with the Executive Order and any relevant PDG B-5 requirements.

## Resources:

- 2022: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/childcare/pdf/pdg/2022-needs-assessment.pdf>
- 2021: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/childcare/pdf/pdg/2021-needs-assessment.pdf>
- 2020: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/childcare/pdf/pdg/statewide-needs-assessment-summary.pdf>



# Collaboration and Coordination

**Executive Order 4b: "Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, childcare, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among State agencies responsible for administering such programs."**

## Current Activities:

DCF has contracted with Consilience Group to develop a Statewide Birth to Five (B-5) Early Childhood State System Strategic Plan - a requirement of PDG B-5 - that will address collaboration and coordination.

*Phase One (complete)* - Shared vision and DCF B-5 Strategic Plan created.

*Phase Two (underway)* - Work underway with DHS and DPI to learn about relevant early childhood programs and services in those agencies; help identify potential opportunities for greater inter-agency alignment, collaboration, and coordination.

*Phase Three (late 2023-2024)* - Development of B-5 Early Childhood State System Strategic Plan planned



# Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS)

**Executive Order 4g: "Make recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate."**

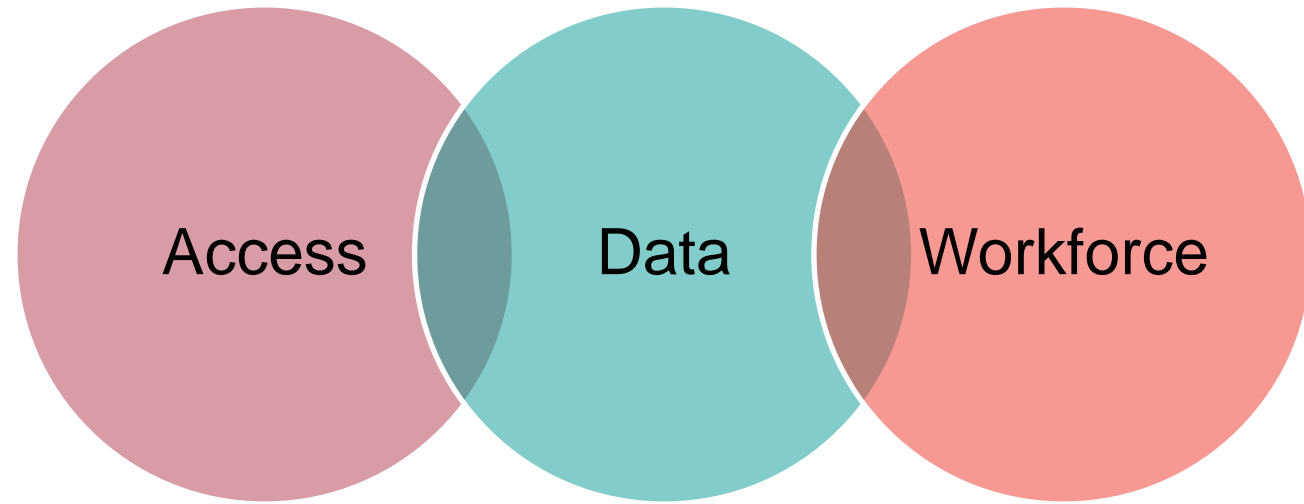
WMELS are due for review and revision:

- First established 20 years ago, WMELS are a broad set of early learning development guidelines across multiple domains.
- Creating and updating WMELS has always been a collaborative effort.
- DCF and DPI are working together to formalize a good-fit revision process that leverages past collaborative efforts and engages the ECAC.
- Originally considered utilizing DPI's Academic Standards Review/Revision Process, but determined a collaborative process co-led by DCF/DPI with support from ECAC is a better fit for the content of WMELS.



# Discussion & Information Gathering







# Access

**Executive Order 4c: "Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations."**

- Under the auspices of the ECAC, secured funding through a variety of resources to increase access to child care.
- Provided recommendations for increasing access to child care for tribal populations, child welfare populations, children with disabilities and other populations.
- Sponsored tribal listening sessions in May 2013.
- Focused on Head Start, four year old kindergarten and community-based collaborative child care programs.



# Data

**Executive Order 4d: "*Develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the State.*"**

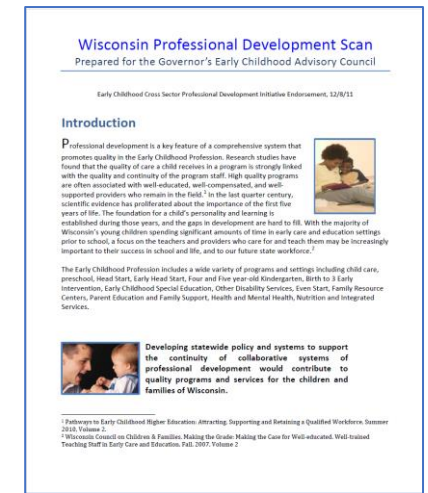
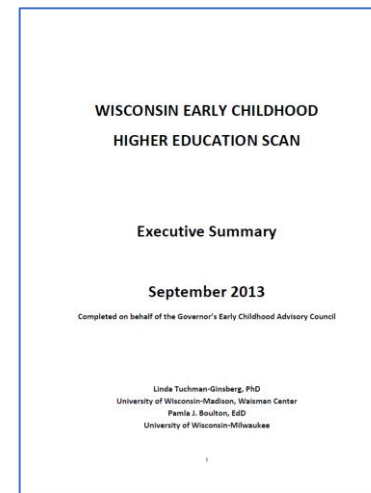
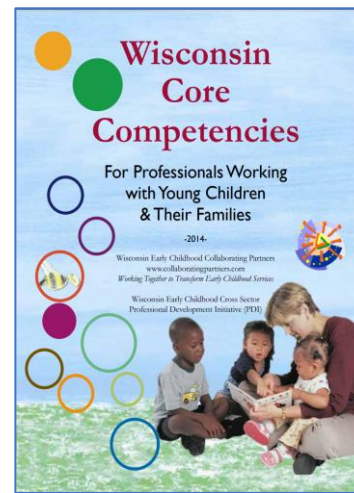
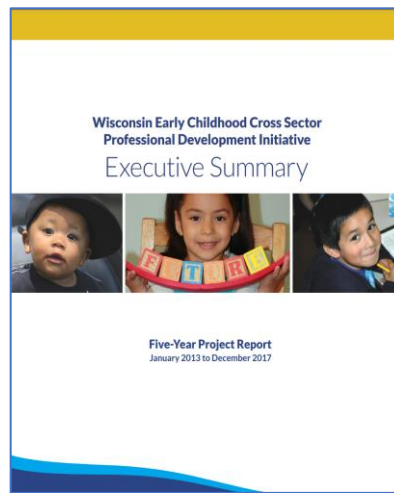
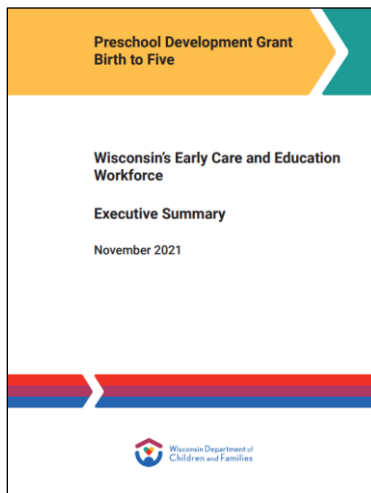
- With initial funding from Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant, created an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).
- Data workgroup formed to advise ECAC to help create ECIDS and make ongoing recommendations on data needs.
- ECAC continually reviews data to inform recommendations.



# Workforce

**Executive Order 4e: "Develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State."**

**Executive Order 4f: "Assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or pre kindergarten program."**



# Discussion & Information Gathering:

## Breakout Groups - Instructions:

- We will discuss the remaining Executive Order topics in breakout groups.
- We have identified overarching themes of these items: "Access," "Data," and "Workforce."
- We will have four breakout rooms.
- Each room will discuss the three topics.
- Each room will have a facilitator and notetaker.
- We will have time for large group sharing.
- Note: Members of the public may observe and share thoughts in the Public Comment section after this breakout activity.



# Discussion & Information Gathering:

## Breakout Group Prompts:

- **Introductions (name, organization, role - place in chat)**
- **What current work is ongoing and connected to Access, Data, Workforce?**
- **What reports, data, workgroups already exist?**
- **Strengths? Barriers? Opportunities? Gaps?**



# Public Comment

Please note there are two ways to make comment:

- Raise hand in Zoom and come off mute.
- Add your comment to the chat box.



# **Next Steps & Closing Remarks**



# 2023 ECAC Full Council Meeting Schedule

- **September 27, 2023, 9:00a-12:00p**
- **December 6, 2023, 9:00a-12:00p**



**Thank you!**

