

Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council
Wednesday, June 25, 2025, from 9 am to 11 am

Hybrid Meeting Structure

In-Person Meeting Location:
201 W. Washington Avenue, Madison WI 53703
Room 121

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dcfwi.zoom.us/j/84032201034?pwd=pWflPjh5SBEI6kv3AndbzaYMxXQuH.1>

Members Present: Dr. Jill Underly, Priya Bhatia, Jillian Clemens, Andrea Gugel, Peng Her, Bianca Hill, Angi Kruger, Heidi Luft, Jennie Mauer, Suzette Mayotte, Ivy Meierotto, Charlene Mouille, Rebecca Murray, Dan Rossmiller, Dea Wright, Dr. Katie Roberts, Cailin O'Connor, Deborah Rathermel, Jose Martinez, Lupe Martinez, Kathy Mullally, Kathy Paul, Kelly Matthews

Welcome, Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Priya Bhatia. The agenda for the day's meeting was reviewed.
- Priya Bhatia requested approval of the minutes from the March 19, 2025 meeting.
 - Jose Martinez motioned to approve the minutes.
 - Rebecca Murray seconded the motion to approve the minutes.
 - Minutes were approved.

Co-Chair Comments

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) State Superintendent and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary provided department updates.

Federal Update

The Wisconsin Head Start Association (WHSA) Executive Director provided updates on Head Start as it relates to federal funding. The director shared a partner letter of support from the National Head Start Association with the Council.

DCF's Assistant Secretary provided an overview of the current state of the federal budget bill including significant cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, USAID, and PBS, as well as PAYGO rules that could result in cuts to MIECHV, CSBG, and TANF. The bill has been passed by the House and is now being reviewed by the Senate.

DPI's Policy Initiative Advisor in the Office of the State Superintendent also emphasized the uncertainty and unknowns around federal education spending. There is a risk of significant cuts to Title programs, Special Education programs, and Out-of-School Time funding. DPI shared several resources where they are tracking the impact of federal funding cuts in Wisconsin

including: <https://dpi.wi.gov/policy-budget/federal-funding> and [Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers](#).

Department of Health (DHS) Office of the Secretary's Policy Director echoed the uncertainty and unknowns pertaining to the impact of potential federal cuts. DHS developed together two documents highlighting the impact of Medicaid and SNAP cuts in Wisconsin which can be found here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/fed-medicaid-cuts-full-2025.pdf> and <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/snap-reform-2025.pdf>.

Council members asked questions and provided feedback on the federal budget update.

State Budget Review

The Council heard and discussed agency budget overviews from DCF, DPI, DHS and CANPB. There are still many unknowns and uncertainty since several of the agencies have not been called before the Joint Committee on Finance yet.

Subcommittee Update

The Council was reminded that the ECAC subcommittees and their work has been paused for the time being.

Public Comment

The Council will hear comments and updates from members of the public. There were no public comments.

Next Steps

Next meeting is scheduled for October 8th from 9am – 12pm.

Adjourn

Sara Knueve requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- Motion to adjourn was made by Kelly Matthews
- Cailin O'Connor seconded the motion to adjourn.
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:59AM.