



**ARPA Task Force Early Childhood Learning Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes –July 21, 2021
10:30am Hybrid In Person/Virtual Zoom Webinar**

Attendance:

Committee Members Present: Co-Chair, Charuni Patibanda, Co-Chair Ken Woods, Kirstin Olson, Rita Landgraf, Quinn Johnson, Madeleine Bayard, Pam Reuther

Committee Members Absent: Mari Viera Gunn, Heidi Heck, Co-Chair Lisa Diller

Others in Attendance: Judi Mitchell, Ben Morris-Levinson, Hector Maldonado-Reis, Ryan Harrington (DDIL)

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 10:32am. Hybrid Public Meeting rules announced

Approval of Minutes

- Rita Landgraf moves for approval, Councilman Ken Woods seconds
 - Minutes Unanimously approved.

Committee Discussion

- Brief Update from Co-Chair of Workforce Development Committee, CJ Bell
 - Two sub committees
 - Non profit and small business
 - Workforce development
 - Joint recommendations from ECL and Workforce committees are preferable
- Committee discussed possible recommendations and touched on the following points:
 - State is still working for recommendations for “Quality” state dollars
 - State is trying to collect data on POC and matching funds, report is expected at the end of September.
 - State is offering grants to all childcare providers for specific categories of expenses. Amounts are to be consistent across similarly sized providers. Largest providers are capped at \$150,000.
 - Continuum of home visiting that serves a small subset of families, one thought is to create universal home-visiting
 - There is a continual need for equipment and materials for providers.
 - State grants are so small they are not worth the paperwork

- Grants could also be targeted areas to like infants, after hour care
- Grants can be given to categories like maintaining and help stay open, new capacity, quality improvement.
- Ideas to expand child care hours, allow for more flexibility among parents
- Increasing capacity and quality at the same time is essential--measuring outputs not just inputs. We are not measuring the right metrics which is one of the reasons we are failing in this field.
- The State's reimbursement is 60 cents on the dollar to actual costs.
- Incentives for increases the workforce, including scholarships, loan forgiveness, signing bonus, retention bonuses.
- High school internship program--pay for high school students to get their credentials in high school.
- Front line workers are the workers who are quitting and moving jobs the most. Sign on bonus could come with a commitment of time in the role.
- Should consider looking at additional funding for childcare centers willing to support children with behavioral/special needs, should reward childcare centers looking to support them.
- On the flip side, should also look at the effects on parents (especially moms) being unable to return to the workplace due to having to care for their children

Other

- Next meeting: August 4
- Next meeting after that: August 18

Public Comment

- No public comments

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am