

**FAMILIES, EDUCATION, PRESCHOOL, AND PROMISE
LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

WebEx Meeting
Thursday March 2, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Director Chappelle called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

II. Attendees

Members Present: Linda Thompson-Black, Councilmember Tammy Morales, Dr. Donald Felder, Marques Gittens, Kateri Joe, Ted Howard on behalf of Brent Jones, Susan Lee, Erin Okuno, Rose Rimando-Chareunsap, Manuela Slye, Evan Smith, Kimberly Walker-Harrison

Others Present: Chris Alejano (DEEL), Afiya Armstrong (DEEL), Lori Baxter (DEEL), Dwane Chappelle (DEEL), Katie Culler (DEEL), Leilani Dela Cruz (DEEL), Jemini Davis (DEEL), Jayme Estep (DEE:), Stasha Espinosa (HSD), NaKeesa Frazier-Jennings (DEEL), Jasmine Marwaha (CoS), Kamaria Hightower (DEEL), Alex Rouse (CBO), Jonthan Swift (DEEL), Mei-Li Thomas (DEEL), Sonja Griffin (DEEL), Ismael Fajardo (DEEL)

III. Business Items

Mental Health SLI Overview

- Dr. Chappelle updated the Committee on the Statement of Legislative Intent on Mental Health

Seattle Preschool Program Overview

Presenters:

Leilani Dela Cruz, Early Learning Division Director

Review & Advise	Recommend	Vote	Advocate
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- Leilani Dela Cruz provided a high-level overview of the Seattle Preschool Program

*Discussion Summary**

Speaker Initials	Question/Comment
ES	Access Quality and Affordability – The 186 hour instruction days leaves gaps in 8hr work day and summer months, why is that the goal not more in line with the average work day?

	LDC- We have mixed-delivery system. Some partners offer 6hr days such as SPS, our largest partner. There are before and aftercare subsidies for qualifying families. SPP also offers a summer extension that programs that adds an additional 6-8weeks of childcare.
ES	Is FEPP currently funding summer as well? LDC- Yes (explains on subsidies)
ES	Slide 9 – Is this approach creating socio-economic diversity? LDC-most of the studies quoted are referring to families that qualify for ECEAP and Head Start. SPP provides subsidies for families that make up to \$100K annual household income vs the federal cap of approximately \$30K annual for a family of 4.
DF	How many children (of SPP) are enrolling into SPS and of that number how are they progressing through kindergarten? Degree of congruency of progress of what is happening in preschool and if not why? LDC-The numbers will be addressed after the meeting as well as the assessments used for kindergarten readiness
MS	1-Number of students that are referred to special education screenings especially the number of students of color. LDC-will get the number already on IEPs and track the number of students being tracked. 2-Any preschool providers not licensed? Any program supporting those providers? Any funds available? LDC-Explains about the Pathway program
VSM	What are providers sharing about problems around tracking and retaining caregivers, and wage equity? What are providers sharing around enrollment? LDC-Have heard from providers, we are starting to see teachers leaving the field entirely and DEEL is working to get a better understanding of what those pressures are. SL-The equity piece isn't 100% addressed in SPP contracts, but there is an acknowledgement of the education background for a wage floor. Confirmed that there is a huge demand for quality childcare in the area.
KJ	Discussion Moment 1: What questions or wonderings do you have about the information shared? I am wondering how "Culturally responsive," is being defined for both the mental health and SPP programing indicators. Also, curious how it is being determined if it is met?
AR	I thought SPP childcare subsidies for extended day (time outside of preschool hours) were only offered for income-eligible families, right?

KW	For the CLASS slide, the instructional supports score dipped to 2.9, has the reasons been identified?
EO	Does the data sharing agreement cover SPP? IF - Yes. Data sharing agreement with SPS includes SPP.
DF	Can the DEEL team provide the data that I referenced to the retreat? IF - We are in the process of conducting an outcome evaluation with Education Northwest. Longitudinal questions will be explored and can provide an update at the retreat.
AR	How many new preschool slots available in the City has SPP created through this program?
LDC	LDC – trying to understand the process of doing an SPP impact evaluation and a trend with students overtime and Phase II is to go deeper

Early Learning Coaching and Quality Teaching

Presenters:

Sonja Griffin, Manager, QPPD

Dr. Afiya Armstrong, Early Learning Coach

Katie Culler, Early Learning Coach

Review & Advise	Recommend	Vote	Advocate
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- The Quality Practice and Professional Development Team provided a detailed overview of DEEL’s research-based coaching approach

Discussion Summary

Speaker Initials	Question/Comment
DF	<p>Can you talk about some of your challenges</p> <p>AA- overwhelmed teachers and teacher shortages SG – One of the biggest challenges is supporting the workforce. Ongoing issues related to teacher shortages.</p> <p>Agencies are struggling to retain and recruit new teachers is difficult, which leads in inadequate agency staffing to support teachers planning time and time to attend trainings to improve their teaching practice. Low wages and elevated stress from COVID is still impacting teachers, and exacerbating these challenges. Many of these challenges impact coaches ability to provide consistent and robust coaching. DEEL’s continues to try to mitigate some of these challenges by</p>

	<p>providing compensation for teacher release time, training to address the teachers well-being.</p>
CMM	<p>Diversity of the teachers and different languages. Is that coaching done in English or in the home languages of the teachers?</p> <p>AA- a few Spanish speaking sites that has translators, also French on one occasion KC- in our process of hiring looking to hire coaches that have perhaps a cultural or language connection to serve the providers that provide culturally responsive services to the families served</p>
SL	<p>127 classrooms and 16 coaches? Is that workload manageable? What are the coaches backgrounds to provide these PD opportunities to the classrooms?</p> <p>AA- all coaches are well versed in classroom best practices and participate in annual professional development opportunities The workload averages about 16 classrooms per coach, which is not manageable and is not in alignment with the original standard that was set during the SPP pilot of 1 coach to 10 classrooms. Because of this reality coaching is differentiated depending on the data/performance of each classroom. SG – all coaches have a Masters and or equivalent in ECE, and select trainings that have to be completed (HighScope, Creative Curriculum, etc.)</p> <p>The minimum qualifications to be hired as a Coach with the city is a Master of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education, Child Development, Human Development, or Teaching Credential with Emphasis on Preschool through 3rd grade education. The degree ensures that the coaching and training provided by this position, meets all WAC requirements for approved trainers and encompasses the breadth of knowledge needed to provide PD opportunities for each classroom.</p> <p>KC – we also provide coaching for Birth to 3 classes which makes the load 172 classrooms and speaks to the low coach labor shortage as well. LDC- Birth to 3 is funded by the SBT not FEPP</p>
MS	<p>What specific training do Coaches have about special education tracking and recommendations? How do you approach red flags in a culturally responsive way?</p> <p>AA-Mentoring in the classroom, childfind, hire therapists KC – SPP classrooms has access to KCSPH and a mental health specialists. SG- Coaches have received training from the UW Haring Center, and work in collaboration with SPS, Child Find, SKCPH, and other Specialist to identify and support the needs of all children. Coaches use a culturally responsive approach, and encourage teachers to work closely with families to understand the cultural background, practices and experiences of children they may have concerns about.</p>
SL	<p>Trainings being provided to the coaches are they also available for the site directors and the administrative teams? Is there an opportunity to train the trainer opportunity?</p>

	<p>SG- yes, we still support and encourage that. Site specific trainings and collaborative training opportunities are available. Directors can attend trainings offered to teachers and coaches or may request in-service training to receive specific training on Instructional Coaching, developed by Jim Knight, which is the core training on coaching that all coaches receive.</p>
Chat	<p>from Jennifer Matter to everyone: 4:48 PM I know in the past there have been issues with securing physical spaces/classrooms for SPP. Is that still an issue? With declining enrollment in some schools, is there an opportunity there?</p>
chat	<p>Do all classrooms have mandatory coaching</p> <p>KC – it is a part of the SPP contract</p>
chat	<p>from Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap to everyone: 5:05 PM I'm wondering if there's an opportunity for intentional partnership with North Seattle College's Early Childhood Ed bachelor program and SPP. It's a highly diverse training program with diverse faculty as well. Thank you for this opportunity to learn and make connections!</p> <p>LDC – always looking to partner with the colleges and looking at other ways we can partner. Seeing lose folks to the District because they can offer a better package of benefits</p> <p>RRC – Colleges is serving a population that reflects the families needing childcare and if there is a recruitment strategy they are excited to partner</p> <p>DC- DEEL is excited to continue to pursue ways of partnership with the college beyond the My Brother's Teacher initiative</p>
chat	<p>from Evan Smith he/him to everyone: 4:59 PM How does a coach come to work with a center/classroom/teacher? While DEEL funds them, do the coaches need to be invited in to SPP situations or do all of the 136 SPP classrooms have mandatory coaching?</p> <p>KC-SPP coaching is part of the SPP contract and one is participating in coaching. Each agency is assigned a coach and the work is done on-site and following all COVID safety precautions.</p> <p>Agencies are required to participate in coaching, per their Agency contract, DEEL does try assign/match coaches based on their experience, background and knowledge to ensure the best fit, Coaches who have worked in school district settings are assigned to SPS sites, Coaches with Bilingual/Bicultural certification or who speak another language are assigned to dual language classrooms, and coaches with experience working with family child care (FCC) providers are assigned to FCC's.</p>

JM	<p>I know in the past there have been issues with securing physical spaces/classrooms for SPP. Is that still an issue? With declining enrollment in some schools, is there an opportunity there?</p> <p>LDC – during expansion in the last few years had more requests than funding and have an annual facilities funding</p>
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Seattle Preschool Program Site Visits

Presenters:

Leilani Dela Cruz, Early Learning Division Director

Review & Advise	Recommend	Vote	Advocate
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- Leilani Dela Cruz provided a high-level overview of the Seattle Preschool Program

Discussion Summary

Speaker Initials	Question/Comment
Overall	Need date and time options before a decision can be made by Committee members

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

V. DEEL Follow-up to LOC Member Questions

- Continued conversation regarding the \$5.7M recommendation by the LOC and the \$1M counter by City Council.
- Why or How enhancement supports can be moved into the K-12 bucket moving it from the Postsecondary bucket.
- Slide 15 numbers of students represented in the percentages shown in the slide.