

WSATC Childcare Subcommittee Minutes
January 17, 2024 – 11:00 AM
Zoom Web/In-Person

In-attendance:

In-person: 32 individuals

Via Zoom: 16 individuals

Shana Peschek, Kairie Pierce, Kenna May, Erin Haick, Peter Guzman, Rio Frame, Marie Keller, Christina Riley, Alma Almachar, Penny Painter, Stella Wayman, Nicole Miller

Welcome – Introductions

Presented by: Shana Peschek, Machinists Institute & Kairie Pierce, WSLC

SEIU 925 2024 Childcare Legislative Update

Presenter: Erin Haick, SEIU 925

- 2195 – Early Learning Facility (ELF) funds – This grant covers predevelopment planning renovation repairs, major and minor constructions projects, and is a competitive grant process. ELF Funds is the main ongoing funder for childcare facilities.
- Senate Bill 5774 – Requires DCYF to perform fingerprinting at early learning and child welfare offices. Childcare providers, teachers, etc must get background checks and this takes a long process.
- House Bill 2101 – Eliminating Childcare license fee. There is a fee to get the business license and this house bill has Washington state cover those costs.

Update on Apprentices Survey and Childcare Resources

Presenters: Peter Guzman, L&I and Rio Frame, L&I

- Rio Frame presents that L&I began sending monthly apprenticeship surveys in April of 2023. Within the survey they send to apprentices, there is a question included that asks if they would like more information on childcare services. Once they receive the contact information and numbers of who are interested, they connect those apprentices with childcare resources in their area.
 - Report due end of 2026 to legislator on what findings came from the survey and what resources are needed.
 - 570 responses as of 1/10/2024. About 200 apprentices responded that they would like to be connected to their coordinators for more information on childcare. Of those 200 responses, about 7% say childcare is an issue for them. 15% responded that reliable transportation is a huge factor, 18% say housing is an issue.

- The survey is sent on the 1st, 3rd, and 6th month mark of the first year of apprenticeship.
- Please contact Rio Frame for more information on the survey link.

Development of How to Guide

Presenter: Marie Keller, Imagine Institute

- Subcontracting with Imagine Institute on guidance with how to grow childcare resources; as well as know how to give them out to the proper individuals that ask for it; how to talk to providers; how to find funding, etc. In addition to that, more information is included on how you advocate for language and bargaining when finding childcare resources. How to talk to employers in adding this resource for their employees, how to make partnerships with childcare providers, etc.
- Marie asks everyone in the room and on the zoom call what the most important elements are that we need to create the guide and what they would like to see in this guide that is being created.
- Intended audience this guide is for everyone.
- The governor's state-wide task force is currently working on universal childcare options. This will allow for more childcare options and different types including family homes, nonstandard hour care, etc.
 - The end goal of this is for families to not pay more than 7% of their income towards their childcare services.

Meeting adjourned 12:15 PM