

**EARLY INTERVENTION/BIRTH TO THREE
ADVOCACY DAY
Wednesday, February 17, 2016**

AGENDA

Advocacy Day Briefing

10:00 AM GA Bldg 210—11th Ave SW

WEECARE Rally

12:00 PM South Portico, Leg Bldg

WEECARE Conversation

2:30 PM Columbia Rm #112, Leg Bldg

Please RSVP weecarecoalition@gmail.com



WEECARE's Mission is to support advocacy for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their need for stable and equitable funding in Washington State. The purpose of the group is to advocate for public policy that supports this population and their families statewide.

Stay informed! Join our listserv at:
weecarecoalition@gmail.com.

Visit us online at
www.weecarecoalition.org
and on Facebook.

The WEECARE Coalition is inviting individuals, families and providers from across the state to come to Olympia and let legislators know how important early intervention services are to infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities and delays.

The day begins with a briefing by The Arc of Washington and will focus on issues that are important to families who have sons/daughters with developmental disabilities and delays. We will meet at the General Administration Building at 10:00 am.

We are organizing a rally in the South Portico of the Legislative Building at noon and are inviting speakers to address early intervention issues this session. Please plan to attend.

We encourage people coming on this day to try to make appointments with their legislators. February 17th is an important bill cutoff day so Legislators will most likely be on the House and Senate Floor all day. If you cannot get an appointment, please ask the legislative aide if it is possible to "pull them off the floor" for a few minutes to speak with them.

While there are people who care about early intervention services in Olympia, The WEECARE Coalition has also reserved a room at 2:30 to have a conversation about what is working well and what might be better with our early intervention system and services. This will give us input on possible legislative issues that we might want to advocate for in the future.

For more information on Advocacy Day including a map of the Capitol Campus please go to: http://arcwa.org/index.php/takeaction/washingtonstate/advocacy_day

For information on Early Intervention Services please visit: http://weecarecoalition.org/ESIT%20Fast%20Facts%202014-15_final.pdf



2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Coordination of Early Intervention Services

In 2006, SHB 1107 was passed requiring school districts to participate in providing Early Intervention services to children with developmental disabilities and delays under the age of 3. School districts can participate by either providing services directly or contracting out to direct service providers. Currently, 87% of schools districts contract out for these services.

The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program within the Department of Early Learning (DEL) is responsible for administering the Statewide Early Intervention system. State funding is provided through the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to local school districts. Because of this administrative structure, DEL/ESIT has limited authority over school districts and the funding they receive for early intervention services.

WEECARE strongly recommends that the current law is amended and clear guidance is provided by OSPI to local school district's to ensure compliance including:

- Definition of Indirect/Administration and an allowable percentage for administrative holdback in districts that contract out.
- Definition of direct services consistent with IDEA Part C regulations and Washington Administrative Code (WAC).
- Clarification of responsibilities and services that should apply to special education (Part B 3-21 years old) and early intervention (Part C B-3 years old) per regulations and WAC.
- A plan that describes how OSPI/Sp. Ed. will work together with the DEL/ESIT program and local school districts to ensure compliance with Federal IDEA Part C regulations and WAC.

WEECARE's Mission is to support advocacy for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their need for stable and equitable funding in Washington State. The purpose of the group is to advocate for public policy that supports this population and their families statewide. For more information, contact Cecile Lindquist (206)524-6564 Lance Morehouse (425)367-1687 or Darci Ladwig (509)279-9242. Join our listserv at weecarecoalition@gmail.com Visit us online at www.weecarecoalition.org and on Facebook.