

**FAMILY SERVICES
ADVOCACY DAY**
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

AGENDA

Advocacy Day Briefing

10:00 AM The United Churches of Olympia, 110 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501
(across the street from the Capitol)

WEECARE Rally

1:00 PM South Portico, Legislative Building



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.

Like us 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 United Churches of Olympia at 10:00 am.

We are hosting a rally in the South Portico of the Legislative Building at 1:00 PM and are inviting speakers to address early intervention issues this session. Please plan to attend.

We encourage people coming on this day to make appointments with their legislators.

- Family stipends available—contact Lance Morehouse at LMorehouse@sherwoodcs.org
- Find your legislator—<http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>



2018

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Coordination of Early Intervention Services

In 2006, SHB 1107 was passed requiring all school districts to participate in providing Early Intervention (EI) 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 school districts contract out for these services.

In 2015, \$2 M state funding was appropriated to Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) budget to address growth and an underfunded EI system.

In 2016, SB 5879 was passed establishing DEL as the lead agency for Part C IDEA. The bill ordered a complete accounting of early intervention, directed DEL to adopt rules and asked DEL to submit a plan for a comprehensive, coordinated EI system. As a result:

- WACs were developed reflecting DEL's lead agency status and providing clarity on service provision and funding.
- A plan was developed with timelines to transition into a more comprehensive and coordinated EI system.

WEECARE Strongly Recommends:

- Maximizing public funding by adopting a sustainable funding structure to ensure equitable early intervention services are available to all eligible infants and toddlers wherever they live in Washington State.
- Supporting recruitment and retention of qualified professionals to provide quality early intervention services to infants and toddlers.

WEECARE's Mission is to support advocacy for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their need for stable and equitable services 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 Lance Morehouse (425)367-1687 or Darci Ladwig (509)279-9242.

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