



## Washington Association for the Education of Young Children

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### Report for Governing Board and Affiliate Council July 2010

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**Our Mission:** We provide services to members and advocate for policies that enable individuals and businesses to provide high-quality early learning experiences for young children.

**Promoting Quality:** *We think about, research, publish and disseminate information about what creates a high-quality early learning environment.*

"Going to AEYC meetings always inspires me. The participants always have a way of inspiring child care staff [members] by teaching...and keeping us informed. It is great to get together with other child care workers and see how they are solving problems."

-Eastern WA AEYC Member

**2010 Annual Conference:** Conference is October 14-16 in Spokane. On Friday and Saturday, attendees will select from sessions provided by WAEYC and from the Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (WSASCD). Keynoters are researcher, co-author, and internationally renowned expert on infant and child development, **Dr. Andrew Meltzoff**, who is the Job and Gertrud Tamaki Endowed Chair and the Co-Director of the University of Washington's Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences. His discoveries about infant imitation have revolutionized our understanding of early cognition, personality, and brain development.



Author, lecturer, and researcher **Michael Gurian**, who is also a New York Times bestselling author of twenty five books in twenty one languages and co-founder of the Gurian Institute. His work spans neurobiology, brain science, and the ways in which boys and girls learn.



Children's author, recording artist, and bilingual educator **José-Luis Orozco**, who helps Spanish language, Latin American culture and musical heritage come alive for children and adults through books and music.

We are still accepting presentation proposal forms, community resource applications and exhibitor applications available at <http://www.waeyc.org/Conference.htm>. Please contact Sunita at [sunita@waeyc.org](mailto:sunita@waeyc.org) or (253) 854-2565 x23, if you or your affiliate wants to be involved with a conference project or to volunteer especially with publicity, or sponsorship development. Eastern Washington AEYC is planning some interesting educational tours and fun and relaxing evening activities. They are also coordinating WAEYC Assistants and other volunteers. Thank you Eastern WA!

**Early Learning Plan:** The Department of Early Learning, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Thrive by Five Washington are nearing adoption of the statewide Early Learning Plan. Public input on the draft plan closed on June 18<sup>th</sup> and is currently being considered. WAEYC provided input on the professional development and child care licensing strategies. The plan

*Washington Association for the Education of Young Children*

*Promoting excellence in early learning*

includes many important strategies, some of which can and will be implemented immediately. Others will require more planning time or funding. A 3-year action plan, available at [www.del.wa.gov/plan](http://www.del.wa.gov/plan), prioritizes strategies that can be implemented in the coming three years. One of the 3-year strategies - implement comprehensive professional development and compensation system - aligns with WAEYC's vision. Another strategy - align prekindergarten and K-3 instructional and programmatic practices - is directly related to an action in WAEYC's 3-year strategic plan.

**High-Quality Inclusive Programs:** Later this summer, WAEYC will launch free online training on transitioning families and children with special needs at age three, child assessment, and other topics related to inclusive education. This work is funded from a grant from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) which WAEYC has received for over 20 years to support inclusion of preschoolers with special needs into programs with typically developing children. This fall, school districts can apply to WAEYC for funding to support partnerships between their early childhood special education program and community based early childhood programs. The purpose is to ensure that inclusive environments exist and seamless transitions happen for children with special needs. A participant this past year said, *"This project provided the means for targeted relationship building with a very interested and committed community partner. It helped us develop a model for working with others!"*



**Supporting Professionalism:** *We promote program quality & professional qualifications and compensation.*

"AEYC's promote the value and necessity of early childhood programs and trainings. I am proud to be associated with this organization. Thank you for taking the time to put together a local chapter that is able to serve our community."

-Puget Sound AEYC Member

**Spanish Conference:** WAEYC's 1st annual conference for Spanish speaking early childhood professionals was a success! Over 60 participants attended sessions gathering new ideas and materials from presenters and exhibitors. Overall, the message we got is that events like this one don't happen often and that more quality training in Spanish, like this conference, is very much needed and appreciated. Thanks to our wonderful presenters, Maria Zanotti, Celina Garza, Maria Vera, Linda Reyes Songer, Uby Creek, Marina Sanchez and Yadira Galvan. We also thank our exhibitors, community resources and sponsors KCTS 9 and V Me!



**STARS:** DEL recently notified WAEYC that they are only contracting with WAEYC for STARS work through December 31, 2010. DEL has said their goal is for DEL staff to do all work related to STARS and to reduce the work by using MERIT, the new online website and database, to accept and process online applications for scholarships. Also, DEL has less funding to pay us to manage and administer these programs through December. DEL will be paying us \$90,000, which is the bare minimum it would cost us, to distribute STARS scholarships, and conference support and scholarship dollars through December. This past fiscal year WAEYC processed 2656 scholarship applications and distributed \$567,000 in scholarships to child care providers. We also distributed \$30,000 in scholarships and other support to 23 conferences across the state. The support makes it possible for conferences to increase their ability to provide quality presenters and to increase the number of people who are able to participate in this professional development.

**Professional Development Planning:** WAEYC facilitated a group from Washington attending NAEYC's State Professional Development Leadership Team Work Day June 5<sup>th</sup> in Phoenix, AZ. Our group connected and shared ideas, strategies and successes with national experts and teams from other states to move toward a shared vision of a high-quality early childhood workforce supported by a coordinated, cross-sector professional development system. Information from the work day is being shared with Professional Development Consortium developing recommendations to the legislature for components of a coordinated system including core competencies, qualifications and credentials, pathways for preparation and continuing professional development, evidence based compensation policies that encourage and reward completion of professional development programs, and a comprehensive, integrated registry designed to capture workforce and professional development data.

**Clock Hours:** WAEYC is an approved provider of OSPI clock hours for professional development. Affiliate chapters and other organizations can apply to WAEYC to offer clock hours at their professional development events. Effective July 1, 2010, WAEYC will charge affiliates \$15 and other organizations \$25 per event to provide clock hours.

**Facilitating Member Connections:** *We enhance learning and sharing connections among early childhood professionals.*

"I am truly grateful for the connection with other Early Childhood leaders. There are many times that you do feel alone in the field and getting ideas, tips or even just sharing experiences is so vital. Thank you so much for providing this wonderful connection."

-East Sound AEYC Member

**Growing Connections:** A year ago, WAEYC launched *Growing Connections* for affiliate chapter leaders. Leaders connected twice – once to learn about professional development opportunities and training needs assessment, and another time to learn about Pierce County AEYC's successes. In May, we expanded this new webinar resource to our member audience. Members joined Department of Early Learning Director Bette Hyde and Thrive by Five Washington CEO Nina Auerbach in a discussion about Washington State's Early Learning Plan. Four *Growing Connections* are being planned for 2010-2011, two each for member and affiliate chapter leader audiences.

**Connections at Conference:** WAEYC leaders are encourage to attend a joint leadership reception with WSASCD and other state and local leaders Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30 pm. WAEYC's Annual Meeting will be Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 12:15-1:15 pm. The Affiliate Council will meet Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00 pm. Past WAEYC presidents are invited to a luncheon Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> noon-1:30 pm.

**Connecting Providers, Advocates & Policy Makers:** WAEYC continues to convene the provider caucus to raise policy and budget issues to bring to the larger Early Learning Action Alliance to be vetted through ELAA's policy agenda setting process. We also convene quarterly meetings of early learning and afterschool provides and advocates with leaders from the Governor's Office, the Department of Early Learning, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and other state agencies. The purpose is to share and discuss policy and budget matters of interest to policy makers and advocates. For more information, go to [www.waeyc.org/PublicPolicy.htm](http://www.waeyc.org/PublicPolicy.htm).

**NAEYC Affiliate Council:** Jamie Ashton, WAEYC's new representative, will attend the NAEYC Affiliate Council Meeting November 6<sup>th</sup> in Anaheim, CA. Contact Jamie at [jashton@whatcomday.org](mailto:jashton@whatcomday.org) if you have any questions or issues you would like Jamie to raise at the meeting.

**Western States Leadership Network:** Thank you to Pierce County AEYC leaders who agreed to present the Washington State of the State Report at WSLN this year and report to WAEYC following WSLN. Western States Leadership Network's (WSLN) function is to bring together affiliate leaders of the 13 western states and share information, resources and leadership techniques. For budget reasons, WAEYC did not send a representative or provide affiliate chapter scholarships to WSLN this year, and didn't send a representative to the NAEYC Public Policy Forum earlier in the year.

**Exceptional Caregiver Awards:** KCTS 9 is again asking our assistance in seeking nominations for their Exceptional Caregiver Awards. Last year, six professional in-home caregivers who cared for children between the ages of 0-5 were honored through a special ceremony, financial awards, and on-air coverage highlighting their achievements. In addition, KCTS 9 joined WAEYC at annual conference to announce the winners. WAEYC is working out the details of this year's collaboration.

### ***Administrative Operations***

**Bylaws:** WAEYC's amended and restated bylaws are now in place. 77% of the members voting approved them. Changes include

- governing board votes on membership dues amounts
- number of members on governing board changes from 16 to a variable number of no fewer than 12 and no more than 18
- governing board includes 4 elected members at large (an increase from 3) as well as an additional up to 3 at large members that could be nominated by executive committee and elected by the board
- number of WAEYC affiliate council reps is no fewer than 2 and no more than 4 (at least 45% of the number of affiliate chapters)
- conflicts of interest; contracts, loans, checks and deposits; and grants administration are included in the bylaws
- the section on affiliate chapters was removed since the bylaws deal with WAEYC operations
- WAEYC's name, purpose and indemnification and dissolution were removed since they were added to the articles of incorporation

**Policies Review:** The executive committee prepared a 3-year schedule for review of all WAEYC policies by the Governing Board. The Personnel, Affiliate Council, and Programs & Services Policies are scheduled for review in 2010-2011.

**Board Elections:** Karen Cooper and Jamie Ashton were elected by the membership to serve two year terms as Vice President and NAEYC Affiliate Council Representative. Jill Brenner submitted an application for Treasurer. We are seeking candidates for Member-at-Large. Position descriptions and an application can be found at [www.waeyc.org/Board.htm](http://www.waeyc.org/Board.htm).

**Committees:** We are seeking members and others with expertise and interest to serve two-year terms on the communications, fund development and governance subcommittees of the advancement committee, the professionals and organizations subcommittees of the programs committee, the finance committee and the public policy committee. Go to [www.waeyc.org/Board.htm](http://www.waeyc.org/Board.htm) to learn more. To nominate yourself or someone else, contact Sunita at [sunita@waeyc.org](mailto:sunita@waeyc.org) or (253) 854-2565 x23.

**Staff Changes:** Due to reductions to and termination in December of the STARS contract, the personnel committee recently eliminated one of the current seven staff positions and will eliminate three more by the end of the calendar year. Jennifer's last day will be July 23<sup>rd</sup>. WAEYC also sadly

said goodbye to Tenesha, Cyndi, Luella, Krista, Rhonda and Michelle at the end of March. WAEYC values the work of all these employees during their tenure with WAEYC. Their work has made a difference for children, families and early learning providers across Washington!

**Lease:** We will negotiate with our landlord to reduce our office space further as a result of the recent STARS contract changes. In May, we signed a five year lease after reducing our space by about 1000 square feet.

**Insurance:** NAEYC annually provides all affiliates (state and local) with a general liability insurance policy at no cost. Affiliate presidents (and senior staff) will receive a PDF file of their insurance certificate by August 1, 2010. In addition to the liability coverage purchased by NAEYC, WAEYC purchases additional insurance:

- **Property:** Coverage includes building, business personal property (\$143,325) and other specified property located on our business premises against direct physical loss due to a covered peril.
- **General Liability:** Provides coverage protecting against certain claims for third party bodily injury or property damage subject to the exclusions and limitations listed in the policy form. Includes aggregate (\$2,000,000), personal and advertising injury (\$1,000,000), fire damage (\$1,000,000), employee benefits liability (\$1,000,000 each claim and \$2,000,000 aggregate), and employers liability (\$1,000,000).
- **Umbrella Coverage:** Provides excess third party liability coverage (\$1,000,000) for all operations including automobile.
- **Directors and Officers and Employment Practices Liability:** D&O liability insurance provides coverage for the directors and officers in the event they are sued in conjunction with the performance of their duties as they relate to our organization. EPLI provides coverage against liability arising from employment practices. (Combined \$1,000,000 aggregate.)
- **Professional Liability:** Also called Errors and Omissions Insurance, similar to a doctor's malpractice insurance, this coverage protects organizations from claims if your client holds you responsible for errors, or the failure of your work to perform as promised in your contract. Although WAEYC doesn't need this type of coverage, Professional Liability is included in our Philadelphia policy with a limit of \$1,000,000 for professional services as defined as "Professional services to others, including counseling services, in your capacity as a human services organization. Professional services include the furnishing of food, beverages, medications or appliances in connection therewith."

**Please Mark Your Calendars!**

<b>September 11</b>	<b>Governing Board Meeting, Kent, WA</b>
<b>October 13</b>	<b>Affiliate Council Meeting, Bellevue, WA</b>
October 14-16	WAEYC Annual Conference, Spokane, WA
November 3-6	NAEYC Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA
<b>Early December</b>	<b>Governing Board Meeting, Conference Call TBD</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Affiliate Council Meeting, Conference Call TBD</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Governing Board Meeting, Conference Call TBD</b>
March 28-30	NAEYC QRIS Meeting & Public Policy Forum, Washington, DC
<b>April 16</b>	<b>Affiliate Council &amp; Governing Board Meeting, Kent, WA</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Governing Board, Conference Call TBD</b>
June 12-15	National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development, Providence, RI
TBD	Western State Leadership Network (WSLN), TBD
<b>July 16</b>	<b>Affiliate Council &amp; Governing Board</b>