Circle Time: noun 1. a time in which young children sit together and share news and stories

Deeann’s Desknote

2019 is proving to be full of surprises, not the least of which was our massive snowstorm, out of which some are still digging. Thankfully, the one dry, sunny, navigable day right in the middle of that week of snowfall was February 7th, which was Have a Heart for Kids Day in Olympia, and CCR’s busiest advocacy feat in our history! Thanks to the hard and fast work of CCR’s first-ever Advocacy and Early Learning Policy Manager, Sarah Brady, CCR has met with more than 45 legislators and policymakers so far this session—also a first, and ever inspiring to be carrying the voices of families and child care providers to encourage change within the early learning system.

After you’ve read Sarah’s summary of both our 2019 agenda and how grassroots advocacy works, I invite you to join us in reaching out to your legislator during this session; not just once but twice or more. Adding your voice will increase the likelihood of successfully adding important investments in early learning! Remember when emailing or calling your legislators—if you don’t ask, you don’t get...20 articulate emails specifically requesting a response can actually kick start an issue through the legislative process. You don’t have to know the minute details to reach out to your legislator. You simply need to know how to talk about the change needed while requesting a specific action (use CCR’s 2019 agenda as a guide if you’d like). Most importantly, share why you care about the issue—make the request personal. Your voice in this process will make a difference for children in our community.

Please take a few minutes to go to https://childcareawarewa.org/advocacy/take-action/ where you can easily find your legislators and write your emails or call.

Thanks for your commitment to children!

My granddaughter, Lily on a snow day

Feature Story: 2019 Advocacy

Special Contributor: Sarah Brady, Advocacy & Early Learning Policy Manager

One of our coaches recently shared with me that they were excited to be involved in advocacy, “because that is what we do.” Our staff advocate daily for children, families and child care providers. Through this work we have learned that our systems are not always set up to best serve all children, especially if they face other obstacles because of their family’s income, their race, or their housing status. I am thrilled to be a part of the CCR community because of the enormous potential we have to shift the way our state cares for young children.

Because you surely have a compelling story about why our elected officials should be doing all they can to create access to high quality child care, we hope you’ll join us in our advocacy push over the next couple of months.
Feature Story: 2019 Advocacy Continued

Here is a quick overview of how the process works, showing how every voice does actually count:

**Advocacy, in a few numbers**

- **2000**
  - 20% The rough number of bills that get introduced to the legislature each year. Only 10-15% of them become law. As advocates we need to be persistent to keep our bills alive throughout the entire legislative process.
  - 12 The number of calls or letters it takes to get a legislator’s attention on an issue. A few heartfelt messages from voters in their district can be a decisive factor during a tough vote.
  - 5-7 The number of legislators it takes to stop or start anything in the legislature. Building relationships with legislators is so important for this reason. Having the ear of a friendly legislator or their staff is key to making our ideas a reality.

**Key questions legislators want to answer throughout the legislative process:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Is this bill a good idea?</td>
<td>When a bill is being drafted and debated in a policy committee, our job is to show how this idea would positively influence early learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Is this a good use of taxpayers’ money? Can we afford it?</td>
<td>When a bill is being debated in fiscal committees and the state budget is being drafted, our job is to show how urgent it is to fund early learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Can a majority of people support it?</td>
<td>While the legislature is voting on bills and the state budget, our job is to show how many people in their district support this proposal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What we’re advocating for**

So far this legislative session, we are seeing exciting opportunities to improve the Early Achievers program, change the way homeless families access the state’s child care subsidies, secure funding for early learning facilities, and an opportunity to expand our Kaleidoscope Play & Learn groups statewide. However, we anticipate a long battle to secure funding to raise wages for child care professionals and make our state child care subsidy program available to more families.

The power of advocacy comes down to this sentiment from Alice Walker: “The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.” We should not be intimidated by the wonkiness of policy. Our legislators do not expect us to have all the solutions. Our job as advocates is to show them why they should care and act by sharing how our work helps create a more just and equitable world. Thank you for being involved!

**2019 Legislative Agenda**

We call on the 2019 State Legislature to make the following investments:

- Restore **Early Achievers** funding
- Fund a **statewide Play and Learn Group** pilot program
- **Increase reimbursement rates** for the Working Connections Child Care subsidy to the 75th percentile of the private market rate, and adjust the rates for metro areas with higher business costs
- **Expand eligibility requirements** for Working Connections to differentiate based on region and area median income
- Expand the **Homeless Grace Period** for Working Connections to 12 months of care

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**Percent of Total Expenditures spent in FY12 compared to the Total Budget in FY19**

- **Early Learning/WCCC**
  - FY12: 1.1%  
  - FY19: 24.5%
- **K-12**
  - FY12: 55.7%  
  - FY19: 18.8%
- **Higher Education**
  - FY12: 16.9%  
  - FY19: 27.4%
- **All Other**
  - FY12: 12.5%  
  - FY19: 1.2%

Note: % of non-comparable, budgeted figures for FY12 and FY19 for certain non-appropriated higher education accounts (grants & contracts, and a few formula-based accounts). Number represents a total of all educational expenditures for higher education and for the entire budget. Prepared by the Office of Financial Research.
A BIG welcome to our NEW board members!

Welcome to Child Care Resources!

Rebecca Benavides
As Director of Legal Business for Microsoft Corporate, Rebecca believes that supportive child care provides every person with the autonomy to realize their full potential. She is also a wife and mother of two daughters.

Vivien Savath
A senior Associate at BERK Consulting, Vivien sees high-quality accessible child care as a root concern for economic and gender justice. She is married to Chip and has one son named Boone.

Duniya Lang
As founder and Executive Director of the Somali Reconciliation Institute and a Behavioral Health Counselor at Refugee Women’s Alliance, Duniya has devoted her career to serving immigrant communities. She is a proud mother of two young children.

Evelyn Lemoine
With 25 years of experience at the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Evelyn founded and co-chaired committees and coalitions to serve and give voice to families and underserved youth.

Brian Stout
Working as an independent consultant at the intersection of progressive philanthropy and movement-building, Brian also enjoys exploring the outdoors with his wife and two daughters.

Staff Spotlight: Sarah Brady, Advocacy & Early Learning Policy Manager

1. What are you currently working on?
My biggest project this week is getting legislators on board to expand our Kaleidoscope Play & Learn program statewide. We have a strong supporter in the Senate, and now I’m tracking down someone to be our champion in the House of Representatives.

2. What is your favorite part of your job?
It feels good to be a part of an organization that is supporting kids at every level. I love being a connector for staff with their legislators because they have such a deep understanding of the issues and the real lives involved. I am excited to see these connections happen with providers and families down the road.

3. What has been a recent challenge in your work?
The legislature moves at an incredible pace, and it takes a lot of focus to keep your head on straight. I felt very accomplished last week when I discovered the best place to charge my phone in the Capitol!

4. What was your favorite book or game as a child?
I was a huge bookworm as a kid. I loved Amelia Bedelia books, read all of the Boxcar Children mysteries, and was lucky enough to turn 11 right at the same time Harry got his Hogwarts letter.

5. What is one cool thing that most people don’t know about you?
I grew up in Venezuela, and lived in Peru for two years after college. My name means corn in Quechua, the language spoken by the indigenous people of the Peruvian Andes.
Inside this season’s newsletter:

- CCR’s advocacy work
- An introduction to CCR’s 5 new board members

Upcoming CCR Events: Save the Date!

Thank You Thursday Diaper Drive

CCR will receive $1 per pint sold

JOIN US
March 21st at 5 pm

rauben's
brews
5010 14th Ave NW, Seattle

Bring new diapers & wipes to donate to families in our Homeless Child Care Program

CCR Pint Night
at Floating Bridge Brewing

$1 of each pint donated to CCR

Thursday, May 9th @ 5 pm
722 NE 45th St, Seattle

kid & pet friendly outside food welcome

I give. You give. We all give, together.

Participate in GiveBIG on May 8, 2019 to donate to CCR