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RE: Child Care Health Consultation system in Washington State.

In the past, Washington state (WA) had the Healthy Child Care WA system through WA Department of (public) Health (WA DOH). It had specialists of different professions involved, but mainly public health nurses. WA DOH still provides [immunization](#) oversight, and communicable disease information. DOH is involved with [Healthiest Next Generation Initiative](#), a cross agency team focusing on improving healthy weight in children, lead by a nutritionist * . There are [some local public health departments](#) (e.g. [Snohomish HD](#) and [King County PH](#)) that still fund their own program, having once been part of the Healthy Child Care WA.

In support of a statewide early learning system in Washington state, four organizations collaborated---with many partners---to create, [Kids Matter](#), an outcome-based early childhood systems framework, and the [Department of Early Learning \(DEL\)](#) Early Learning Plan. Health was part of the WA Early Learning plan. At DEL, "we believe nurturing all aspects of a child's health is important as they grow and develop during the first years of life. Making sure that children have access to high-quality, ongoing physical, mental, and oral health care is one of the best ways that parents and caregivers can keep children healthy and ready to learn." DEL has licensors who consult with three Health Specialists, who are not nurses. DEL is part of the [Healthiest Next Generation Initiative](#) (mentioned above).

Yet, there is no state-funded system of child care health consultation program in Washington State.

As defined by current WA WAC for childcare Centers (means the same as a "child day care center" or a facility providing regularly scheduled care for a group of

children one month of age through twelve years of age for periods less than twenty-four hours - not in a private residence).

[WA WAC 170-295-4130](#), still requires Child Care Centers "[licensed to care for four or more infants](#)" to have "[a nurse consultant who is a currently licensed registered nurse \(RN\)](#)" "**have at least one monthly on-site visit.**" "[Who has either worked in pediatrics \(care of children\) or public health in the past year or has taken or taught classes in pediatric nursing at the college level in the past five years.](#)" Thus, [no specific Child Care Health training is required.](#)

WA [WAC 170-295-3010](#): and [WAC 170-297](#) for Child Care Centers and after school programs health policies and procedures "(d) Reviewed, signed and dated by a physician, a physician's assistant or registered nurse when you change your policies and procedures or type of care that you provide, or at least every three years when you are due for re-licensing."

WA WAC makes no requirements for nurse/health consultation for licensed Family Home Child Care.

The (federal) HeadStart system also has requirements for nursing consultation for health.

Consequently, childcare health nurse consultants are still sought out. Most of us doing consulting privately, were public health nurses trained through the Healthy Child Care WA (public health) system. We also find support through the [Coalition for Safety and Health in Early learning \(CSHEL\)](#).

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