

**Illinois Early Learning Council
Data, Research, and Evaluation Committee
Thursday, May 24th
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Ounce of Prevention Fund
33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60603**

Meeting Notes

Meeting Participants

In-Person: Carie Bires, Ben Boer, Kim Collins, Nicole Gillis, Dan Harris, Lauri Morrison-Frichtl, Elliot Regenstein, Teri Talan, Joellyn Whitehead, Blake Whitson

Phone: Bernard Cesarone, Lisa Hood, Gina Ruther, Deborah Scheiter, Tom Szpyrka, Dawn Thomas, Cindy Zumwalt

Early Learning Council Transition

Ad Hoc Committee

The Ad Hoc Committee is working on creating a set of benchmarks and metrics for the health of the overall system. The Committee is also working on developing a theory of action for the work identified by the individual committees that will lead to the desired results. The group continues to work and will report out at the next Executive Committee meeting and at the full ELC meeting.

Work Plan for DRE Committee

The major purpose of this meeting was to approve a work plan as a part of the ongoing transition for the Early Learning Council. The Early Learning Council has approved a new set of committees with the DRE Committee being one of them. All of the new committees are going to be finalizing a work plan on an accelerated timeline in response to the deadline to apply for funding from the Grand Victoria Foundation. At the last meeting, the Committee was able to discuss the key objectives for future work. Those objectives form the categories of work that has been set out for the DRE Committee. The work plan identifies action steps for each of these objectives, who is responsible for the action step, and the timeframe in which the work will occur.

Feedback

- Consider the issue around what data does and does not currently get collected. Keep in mind that only 20-25% of children birth through five are actually in publically funded programs – so many children are in privately funded early childhood programs. How do we make sure that data is included as well?
- Collaborate with P-20 Council to stay informed about the development of the governance framework for LDS and to help guide the governance framework for the unified early childhood data system

- Objective 1/Action Step 3: Add language - propose what policy change necessary to make that governance framework come into existence (i.e. executive orders and intergovernmental agreements)
- Contractor should be able to inform work around creating a governance framework
- Making sure privacy issues are looked into, such as HIPAA/FERPA, and determining what needs to be done to meet those requirements
- Coordinate with Illinois Collaborative of Educational Policy Research (ICEPR)
- Objective 3/Action Step 5: Add language – develop recommendations for a comprehensive agenda
- Objective 4/Action Step 2: Add language – Gateways to Opportunity Registry, Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE) , DHS Framework, and MIECHV Database
- Objective 4/Action Step 4: Add language – in a “timely” and user friendly manner...
- Objective 4/Action Step 3: Add language – Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Make more explicit the relationship between the DRE Committee and the P-20 Council
- Add language that captures the nature of our work collaboratively under the four objectives
- Create a formalized plan/structure to communicate amongst ourselves, with other committees, etc. for this development phase (i.e. a website) – make this an agenda item at next meeting

The draft work plan will be submitted to the Executive Council for the meeting on June 4th. The finalized work plan that will go to Grand Victoria is to be submitted by June 18th.

Updates

Early Childhood Data System Contractor

John Snow, Inc. (JSI) has been selected to design the unified early childhood data system. (Michael Stelmach, Project Manager for JSI, was able to give an overview of the organization and next steps for beginning the data system design.) JSI is a public health consulting company out of Boston, Massachusetts and has been in business for about 30 years. JSI focuses on system integration work in public health settings with their health IT group. The company has 8 offices domestically and also engages in international public health work. Although their past work has not been specifically on early childhood integration, the approach that JSI will be using is similar to projects in other states for health systems integration and operability.

STEP 1: On June 5th, JSI will be meeting with Kim Collins from OECD to identify a core team, which will include members from the DRE Committee and two or three representatives from key agencies that will provide overall leadership for the project.

STEP 2: JSI will work with OECD and key members as necessary to establish a system for communications to support collaboration and a level of accountability (i.e. ongoing reporting and periodic meetings). This will be developed using tools already in place and being used by other projects with JSI.

STEP 3: There will then be a “project kickoff” where JSI would meet with the DRE Committee to create a sense of focus on the project, get a shared understanding of the project, and generate a sense of excitement.

STEP 4: JSI will be engaging the key players in a data collection process. The company will examine the organizational structure and how things work from a governance and administrative perspective. They will collect data on the actual systems to determine the technology that is being used and will look at actual programs to better understand what services are offered and what data standards exist. All of this data collection activity will give JSI the knowledge base required to inform the development effort for the system.

STEP 5: This will be the actual systems development effort where JSI will document process flows and formalize the early childhood data standards that will evolve from the current data standards and business practices. This will evolve into a system design and a technical architecture for what will eventually be the unified system.

STEP 6: The system development processes will feed into the creation of an RFP or an RFI that will lead into the next phase of the project.

Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge

Illinois has been identified as one of the 5 states with the opportunity to apply for Early Learning Challenge: Round 2 funding. The timeline of that remains unclear, but there is a concerted effort going on now to make it sooner rather than later. When that happens, there will be additional work that has potential implications for the DRE Committee.

P-20 Council

The P-20 Council’s Data Accountability and Assessment Sub-Committee was tasked by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), and Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to develop a governance plan for the longitudinal data system (LDS). Information about this process will be shared with DRE Committee.