

Early Learning Council Executive Committee Meeting

June 4, 2012

1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Chicago-Governor's Office

JRTC- 100 W. Randolph, 16th Floor Video Conference Room

Springfield-Governor's Office

205 State Capitol

Minutes

Participants

Chicago-Karen Berman, Jeanna Capito, Gaylord Gieseke, Dan Harris, Reyna Hernandez, Teresa Kelly, Harriet Meyer, Diana Rauner, Elliot Regenstein, Vanessa Rich, Julie Smith, Sara Slaughter, Teri Talan, Josie Yanguas, Maria Whelan

Springfield-Gina Ruther, Linda Saterfield, Cindy Zumwalt

Phone- Phyllis Glink, Sylvia Puente, Kay Willmoth

Not Present- George Davis, Daniel Fitzgerald

I. Welcome and Announcements

Harriet Meyer welcomed the group to the first meeting of the "new" Early Learning Council Executive Committee. She thanked the committee for its work during the transition period.

a. Minutes

The minutes were approved with no edits. Linda Saterfield moved to approve and Jeanna Capito seconded.

b. Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge

Julie Smith announced that there will be a round two for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) but we are awaiting guidance. 5 states will compete for the \$133 million available. States can prepare and submit applications for roughly half the original amount. The Department of Education is likely to be less flexible in round 2 and will most likely tell states which areas to write to. The open comments period is expected to be in early summer. The money has to be out by December 31st.

The First Five Years fund has asked the Governor, and the five other eligible Governors, to send letters asking for guidance sooner rather than later. We are not sure what the Department of Education's internal timeline is or why the rules and application are being delayed.

- Elliot Regenstein –First Five Years Fund believes that the application does not need formal notice and rule making. The Department of Education is looking into the legal necessity. However, a push from Governor's could help with the policy decision makers if the legal department agrees with the First Five Years Fund.
- Julie Smith- Governor Quinn will send a letter offering our preference to have information early in the summer.
- Harriet Meyer – Hopes there will be some flexibility and also hopes to see RFP ASAP. She and Julie will get the leadership team together to strategize for various scenarios.
- Vanessa Rich – How are we coordinating with other states?

- Elliot Regenstein –We want time with those states who won the first round in order to ask how they are rolling out programs, etc. We want to leverage our money in the best way possible and we can benefit from experience and TA. If there are things we want to borrow from others it will be easier once someone has gone through it.
- Julie Smith – Staying involved has put us in the pot for other projects, such as the ISLE which has attracted private funding. We want to position ourselves to be open to other opportunities.

c. State Update

Julie Smith explained that many difficult issues were taken up this legislative session. The two major issues for the Governor were Medicaid and pensions. Medicaid was addressed and difficult choices were made including eligibility for services. The cigarette tax increase was a success because House leaders said they needed it or they would cut further into state agency budgets. All agencies took cuts for FY13 but the cuts would have been worse without the cigarette tax. Pension issues were not resolved but leaders will likely come back in the summer to come to a resolution. There is much more consensus around the issue than has been publicly discussed, but key areas still need to be resolved.

- Maria Whelan– Is it true they will be back on June 12 and 14?
- Diana Rauner –Do you have any updates on the satellite dish tax?
 - Julie Smith –There has been no movement in the House on the satellite dish tax or closing the oil derrick loop hole. Several legislators have said that we need to look at revenue and the levels of cuts to education. They have said that the cuts are too significant for state to absorb because we will never recover. The Education budget failed in the Senate the first time 22-34. It was tabled for reconsideration and then passed. Strong sentiment was that this wasn't a good choice and cuts were too drastic. This issue has to get resolved by the beginning of the school year.
- Diana Rauner – Does the Governor intend to sign the education budget?
- Julie Smith – Much like last year, the Governor may sign the budget but will look for opportunities to reallocate funds. That will not work for education.
- Maria Whelan – There are several areas in the budget that were not codified. Changes in eligibility for child care were not included in the budget language. Hope we discuss child care besides just the education budget. Suggested we go on record to support a veto of the education budget. The budget cut 8% to General State Aid and will result in huge Kindergarten classes. The Governor has to say that he wants certain things addressed in the special session.
- Nancy Shier –The budget the Senate passed restored funding in education areas such as MAP, Early Childhood, and General State Aid. We need to tell the leaders that the Senate bill is the vehicle. We need to press on what the Speaker wants such as gambling.
- Julie Smith – We do not want to open up the opportunity to start renegotiating the other options and will need 60% to pass anything.
- Maria Whelan–Significant law changes were not included in the law
- Julie Smith – We can do a trailer to the BIMP. Will have to talk to Jerry.
- Maria Whelan –Moves to urge the Governor to notify house and senate leadership of his intention to veto the education budget with special emphasis on the ECBG.
 - Diana Rauner seconded the motion
- Gaylord Gieseke – Would like to offer friendly amendment that he should ask for consideration of the budget in the special session. But also concerned about the unintended consequences, and would it cause more damage in opening it up?

- Josie Yanguas– Everything will need a 3/5 vote which equals the wild wild west.
- Maria Whelan – The budget is unequivocally wrong – budget issues, not just education.
Motion: on behalf of Executive Committee – use threat of veto on the budget if early childhood is not addressed and Governor asks for education to be included in special session.
- Sylvia Puente– We should also send the letter to the leaders
- Maria Whelan– They are not our allies and don't know that we want to engage them.
- Sylvia Puente –Should we send separate action to the leaders?
- Julie Smith – Representative Chapa LaVia has also suggested that the Governor takes all available action. Could also call for consideration of senate actions on the revenue side.
- Maria Whelan – We must call for anything. Threaten a veto and any and all other strategies.
Motion tabled

II. **Committee Work Plans**

Harriet thanked the chairs and staffers for their work putting together the work plans. We want to review and discuss the plans so we can move on with Grand Victoria Application. This will also raise the issue of what work groups might need to develop and which need staff support. We need final work plans by June 18th.

a. **Data, Research, and Evaluation**

1. Elliot Regenstein- Most of the work came from the old committee
2. Teri Talan- Will remove the word framework from the work plan as to eliminate confusion. Also struggling with only researching the publically funded early childhood programs. There are many children in private programs so we will be missing kids.
3. Harriet Meyer- We should require research to participate with the Council. We need to think about how we can use our role as a Council to leverage research.
4. Elliot Regenstein- We do not know yet what we want and are not getting.
5. Sara Slaughter- Make sure to keep the philanthropic community informed so that it can require the sharing of data.
6. Gaylord Gieseke- Coordinate with the Mental Health Partnership research committee
7. Karen Berman- Include the YEIDS EI database in the list of databases

b. **Committee Membership/Structure**

1. Maria Whelan- We need to clarify language, i.e. workgroup or committee. We also need to discuss the process about having the right people on each of the committees. Some of the provided lists have people that are no longer in the field listed
2. Vanessa Rich- Should be diverse and let new people onto the committees. Should be very transparent
3. Diana Rauner- There are 150 people on the Home Visiting Task Force
4. Maria Whelan- We need an all day meeting in July to discuss
5. Harriet Meyer- We can discuss language and diversifying membership at the meeting
6. Karen Berman- The Systems committee is trying to make decisions on leadership and would like to look broadly at who will be leaders. Do we need work group co-chairs for the Grand Victoria application?

- a. Sara Natig- no

c. **Family and Community Engagement**

1. Maria Whelan- The Special Populations, Public Awareness, Oversight and Coordination, and Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee are all moved under this committee. Most of the work of the Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee is now under the Program Standards and Quality

- Committee. Will create a family engagement work group at a later date. Now they will move forward with three work groups, Public Awareness, Hard to Reach, and Space Capacity. Public Awareness will work on MIECHV,
2. Karen Berman- Is the work of the Hard to Reach embedded in the QRIS work?
 3. Maria Whelan- No, we are focused on families that are currently not being reached, including homeless and special needs children.
 4. Karen Berman- We need to highlight that this is where people concerned with these populations should do their work.
 5. Maria Whelan- Currently the former co-chairs make up the committee membership.
 6. Diana Rauner- We need to offer rationale for why we bucketed work the way we did for the grant application
 7. Maria Whelan- Co-Chairs can help with this. Also need to think about a simple template that explains the vertical and horizontal cross over.

d. Program Standards and Quality

1. Jeanna Capito- Looking at a steering committee approach.
2. Harriet Meyer- This committee looks a lot like the old structure
3. Nancy Shier- Thought that Infant and Toddler Committee had its last meeting and that its work was going to be embedded in all of the work of the committees. Also where is the QRIS committee?
4. Linda Saterfield- will convene the folks that need to be at the table. Some ad hoc people and some child care advisory committee people.
5. Maria Whelan- With the passage of the DCFS licensing bill the workgroup will have to be really strong.
6. Teri Talan- The new leadership standards and principal preparation should be in both the Program Standards and Quality and Systems Integration and Alignment Committee.

e. Systems Integration and Alignment

1. Karen Berman- walked through the work plan
2. Reyna Hernandez- Health work group will first focus on getting people to the table
3. Cindy Zumwalt- The Program Standards were included in the approved Rules. ISBE is finalizing the benchmarks

III. Ad Hoc Committee Product

a. Review and discuss proposed benchmarks

1. Elliot Regenstein The Ad Hoc committee will put together three documents; 1. Lay audience document, 2. Detailed and sophisticated with explanations and 2nd indicators; and 3. Logic model with activities and outcomes in a graphic.
Some of the metrics are still being developed and some may be difficult to measure.
2. Diana Rauner- Will the dashboard have information on all kids or just high needs kids?
3. Elliot Regenstein- We have struggled and are looking at this issue metric by metric.
4. Vanessa Rich- Needs to reflect all kids

IV. Closing and Adjourn

The committee voted to approve the motion that was tabled earlier in the meeting. Jeanna Capito asked that the Early Learning Guidelines be added to the agenda for the full Council meeting in June.