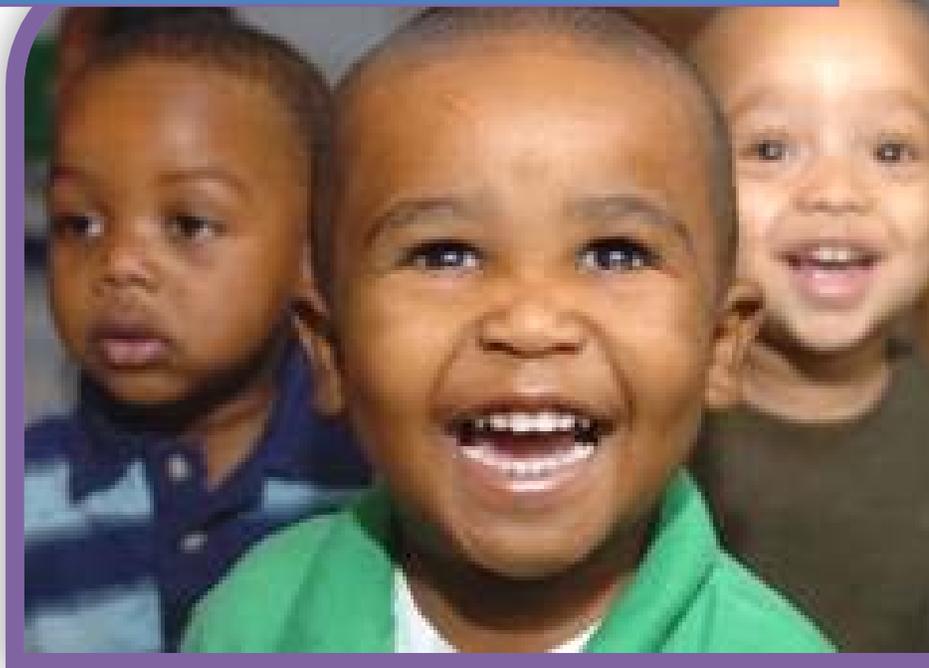


Illinois Early Learning Council



2011-2012
Annual Report

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Background

In 2003, the Illinois General Assembly enacted legislation creating the Illinois Early Learning Council to guide the development of a statewide early childhood system to ensure that young children at risk for school failure and their families experience the high-quality programming and services necessary for healthy development. The Council is seen as a national model for its long history, strong participation across stakeholder groups, and recent creation of a Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD) that provides leadership and coordination to the Council. The OECD is positioned to work across agencies to develop a common vision for a unified early childhood system in the state, as well as support the implementation of recommendations coming from the Council in support of early childhood development in Illinois.



The Early Learning Council began a strategic planning process in February 2011 and completed the process in the summer of 2012. The process resulted in a new committee structure, updated vision, and a set of guiding principles. The new committee structure will go into effect July 1, 2012. This report will reflect the work of the Council from July 2010-June 2012.

Vision

At the highest level, a well-coordinated, accessible, easy to navigate early childhood system will include the components listed in the vision and the guiding principles. The Council approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to further set benchmarks and outcome measures for the system components outlined in the Council's vision.

System Components:

- Ongoing preventive health care -- including all appropriate well-child care, screenings and immunizations, and periodic developmental screening to determine whether children may be exhibiting developmental delays that warrant intervention services.
- High quality early education programs and services serving children birth to eight with continuous improvement under the Tiered Quality Ratings and Improvement System (TQRIS) where applicable, and with aligned of standards, instruction, assessment, and supports as

students/families transition from infant toddler programs into prekindergarten programs and from prekindergarten programs into kindergarten and beyond.

- A well educated and compensated workforce.
- Diverse funding mechanisms and delivery systems; integration and maximization of funding streams set at appropriate, sustainable levels.
- Increased participation, at an earlier point (i.e. before prekindergarten entry) by children and families with high needs, including those who are hard to reach, English language learners (ELL's), homeless, and disabled.
- Enhanced Parent engagement, including multiple information channels that help parents identify high-quality service providers.
- Community systems coordination and development.
- Public awareness on the benefits of high quality early childhood programs and services and the ongoing work of the Early Learning Council, particularly amongst policy makers.

Mission

The Illinois Early Learning Council coordinates existing programs and services for children from birth to five years of age in order to better meet the early learning needs of children and their families. The goal of the Council is to fulfill the vision of a statewide, high-quality, accessible, and comprehensive early learning system to benefit all young children whose parents choose it.

The Illinois Early Learning Council Act P.A. 93-380, 20 ILCS 3933/5

Operating Mission

The role of the Council has evolved in the time since the Council was created in statute nearly a decade ago. As a result of the strategic planning process, the Council developed an operating mission to guide the work of the Council.

The early childhood framework is based on the vision of every child entering kindergarten is safe, healthy, ready to succeed and eager to learn. We celebrate diversity and partnering with community stakeholders who value a bright future for all young children in Illinois. We are committed to universal access for all children birth to age eight, to high quality programs and services, prioritizing children with high needs and families that are hard to reach. When Illinois' vision is realized, we will see all young children's needs being met, including access to early childhood education, physical and mental health care, and family supports.

Guiding Principles

To establish a framework by which the work of the Early Learning Council can be assessed, the Council approved a set of guiding principles to direct the work of the committees and reflect the priorities and commitments of the Council as a whole.

We are committed to:

- Serving the hardest to reach children and families first and providing them access to the highest quality services.
 - Ensuring that resources are sufficiently allocated to provide high quality services for every age from birth to five.
 - All children entering school are healthy and ready to learn.
 - A holistic approach to the needs of family and children.
 - Ensuring that family engagement and partnership is integrated and embedded in all early childhood programs and services.
 - Striving for an early childhood system that is transparent and easily navigated and accessed by the families it is intended to serve.
 - Ensuring that all children have well educated and well compensated teachers.
 - Ensuring that the learning and care continuum from birth to third grade is aligned, allows for smooth and effective transitions, and reflects best practices.
-

Membership

The Council is composed of gubernatorial and legislative appointees who serve three year terms on a voluntary, unpaid basis. Council has seventy-two members who represent a broad range of constituencies, including schools, child care centers and homes, Head Start, higher education, state, local, and federal government agencies, the General Assembly, business, law enforcement, advocacy organizations foundations, and parents. The Council includes representation from both public and private organizations, and its membership reflects regional, racial, and cultural diversity to ensure representation of the needs of all Illinois children. The Council as a whole meets a minimum of three times a year. Members are encouraged to participate on at least one committee of the Council. Both members who are formally appointed to the Council and early childhood stakeholders who serve on individual committees act as a collective advisory body, working collaboratively to develop advisory recommendations in keeping with the Council's vision, mission, and goals. The Council is co-chaired by Harriet Meyer, long time President of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, and Julie Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Pat Quinn. The Council Co-chairs designate Council Committee Co-chairs. A full list of Illinois Early Learning Council members is included in Appendix A.

Council Accomplishments

The Illinois Early Learning Council (Council) has made great strides in building a unified early childhood system over the past 2 years. State and private agencies are aligning priorities and working together on early childhood systems like never before and the children of Illinois will benefit.



The activities of the Council are funded through two federal grants, the State Advisory Council ARRA Grant (SAC) and the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Project (MIECHVP) grant, and



assorted foundation funding. The work of the Council and committees over the past two years have been focused on four main goals, (1) increase participation of underserved populations in high-quality early childhood education and care programs; (2) increase coordination across programs, services and administrating agencies; (3) develop a comprehensive data system; and (4) advance the professional development system.

In August 2011 the Federal Government issued the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) application.

The Grant competition focused on improving early learning and development programs for young children by supporting State's early learning education reform. The Council had a central role in the drafting of the application. The Council Co-Chairs served as Co-Chairs of the application's Leadership Group and the OECD Project Manager staffed this group. The coordination between state agencies and private partners and alignments created through this process laid the groundwork for an improved early learning system. Despite not being selected for the RTT-ELC in 2011, Illinois was selected as one of five states to compete for up-to half the original award amount. The application information for the \$35 million should be available at the end of the summer. The Council will continue to work toward the goals outlined in our first application, of deepening alignment and integration of state and local systems with a focus on areas of concentrated high need; identifying all high need children and families; providing high quality supports to programs; and moving programs from adequate to good and good to great.

The last report discussed the strategic planning initiative that the Early Learning Council had planned to undertake beginning in February 2011, however, the Council decided to postpone the strategic planning process in order to draft the RTT-ELC application and use the drafting process to aid strategic planning. The Strategic Planning Team and Executive Committee were merged and met to discuss the vision and reform agenda for the RTT-ELC grant. Following the submission of the application this group met again to review the needs assessment data, (to be discussed under the Data Work Group) the final application, and identify the key questions that still need to be addressed by the Council. The group determined that the RTT-ELC commitments constituted roughly 75% of the Council's strategic direction/goals for the next three to five years.

Subsequently, the Executive Committee convened monthly through October and at least bi-monthly over the course of the next 6 months to review progress on original goals, discuss prioritization of ongoing projects, and consider updated strategies. The Council agreed that after having convened as a formalized advisory body for nearly a decade, the landscape of early childhood had evolved and it was time to revisit the Council's goals, vision, and work priorities. Following nine months worth of targeted discussions, the process culminated in a streamlined reorganization of the Council structure as well as

an updated vision for a comprehensive, statewide early childhood system and a plan for ensuring accountability.

The Executive Committee then identified the work to be done by the Council and recommended a reorganized committee structure to the full Council at the February 27th meeting. The Council approved four new committees and the continuation of the Home Visiting Taskforce. The new committee structure is included in the Council Recommendations section. The Council also approved the new vision, operating mission, and guiding principles. To enable the Council to better track progress towards bringing about such a system, it was decided that a temporary, ad hoc committee would be created for the purposes of identifying key metrics and benchmarks.

This summer the Council will continue to define its governance structure including clarifying the roles and responsibilities associated with council and committee membership as well as co-chairs and infrastructure to support enhanced communication between the Council and its committees and State agencies. It will also continue to develop linkages to related advisory bodies and create a broader communications strategy for the Council.

Council Recommendations

Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge

At the October 2011, Early Learning Council meeting the Council voted to support Administrative Rules changes included in the RTT-ELC application as well as the entire application including the vision, overall goals for improving child outcomes and closing the school readiness gap, and the strategic reform priorities.

1. The Rules changes included changes to DCFS licensing Administrative Rules and ISBE Administrative Rules.

Illinois' Vision

- Illinois comprehensively supports learning from birth through kindergarten entry and beyond.
- A system of universal supports for every child and family, as well as targeted interventions every child with high needs should receive to support early learning and development and school readiness.

Overall Goals for Improving Child Outcomes and Closing the School Readiness Gap (by 12/31/15)

- Increase the percentage of children who enter kindergarten demonstrating “full readiness” on the KIDS kindergarten entry measure to no less than 80% of all children and 65% of Children with High Needs within five years of statewide implementation of KIDS.



- By December, 2015, increase to at least 75% the percentage of Children with High Needs who have at least one year of participation in a high-quality (Star Level 4 or 5) Early Learning and Development Program prior to kindergarten entry.
- By December, 2015, increase to at least 40% the percentage of children with high needs who have two years or more years of participation in a high quality early learning and development program prior to kindergarten entry.
- By December, 2015, increase to at least 15% the percentage of Children with High Needs who receive five years of high quality early learning services before kindergarten, including home visiting services or Star Level 4 or 5 early care and education in the infant and toddler years.

Strategic Reform Priorities

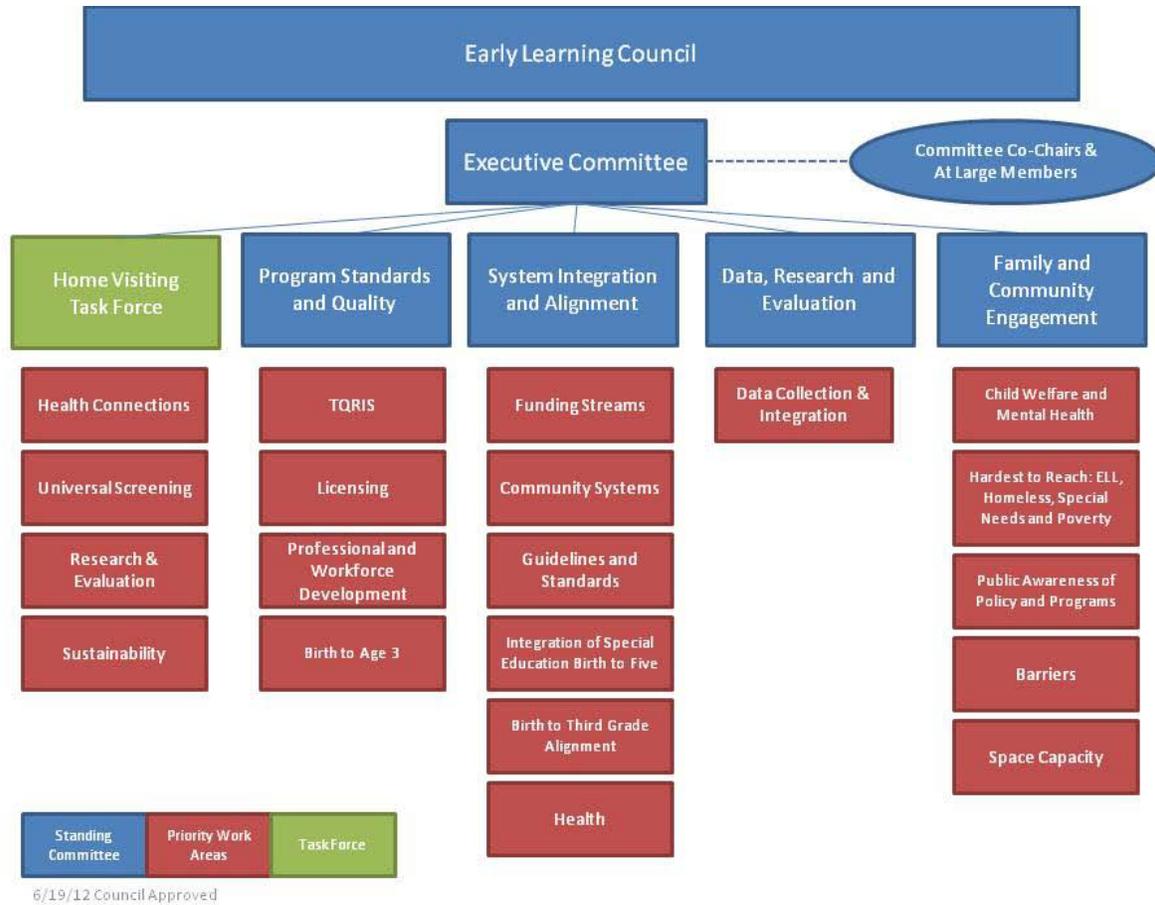
- Deepening the integration of state supports to create a unified framework for all early learning and development programs
- Connecting the most at-risk children with the supports and services they need
- Increasing program quality: from adequate to good and from good to great

New Committee Structure

The Council approved the committee reorganization in order to create a more efficient, nimble structure that makes the best use of the resources of the early childhood community. The Council Co-Chairs appointed two co-chairs to every committee as well as an agency liaison. This liaison will work to ensure stronger communications and alignment of efforts between the work of their respective committee and the priorities of state government.



The organizational chart below displays the new committees as well as their priority work areas. The work plans for the new committees were discussed and approved at the June 25, 2012 meeting.



Committee Accomplishments

The accomplishments below reflect the committee work over the past two years.

OVERSIGHT AND COORDINATION

Co-chairs: Judith Walker Kendrick, Chicago Coalition for Site-Administered Programs

Teri Talan, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership

Charge:

- Provide advice to the Early Learning Council to help ensure the effective implementation of Illinois birth to five services, program quality initiatives, and Early Learning Council recommendations.
- Recommend systems focusing on standards, assessments, systems-level program evaluation, and quality assurance that support both individual children's learning and development and programs' continuous improvement.

- *Recommend strategies to improve coordination and integration across early childhood programs and systems to address the comprehensive nature of children’s healthy development and readiness for school.*
- *Recommend funding models combining multiple funding streams and quality supports*
- *Make recommendations on the content of the Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System*

The Oversight and Coordination Committee has been concentrated on reaching the hardest to reach families in Illinois and was also tasked in October to advise on the completion of the TQRIS for all early learning programs.

The Committee has been focused on the many children in Illinois that are at high risk for school failure and are eligible for high quality early learning, but their families are not utilizing the care available. Families may be hard to reach or reluctant to engage in high quality early learning for many reasons. The Committee created a grant application to test and evaluate some promising theories for solutions. The goal of the grant is to target hard to reach families with innovative approaches for getting children enrolled and participating regularly in high quality early learning programs. Six organizations throughout the state were chosen through a competitive application process to pilot a variety of approaches to reach these hard to reach families and contracts were issued in July.

The University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign- (UIUC) is serving as the evaluator on this project. UIUC will evaluate each of the pilots on eight goals: (1) specific activities and strategies employed to engage hard to reach children and families; (2) number of children from the target group enrolled and served; (3) success of methods used for finding and collecting information on hard-to-reach children and families; (4) average length of families’ stay in the program; (5) reasons as identified by families for leaving the program; (6) cost effectiveness of chosen activities; (7) collaborative relationships created that improved services for hard to reach children; and (8) lessons learned and modifications required for continued success. In addition, the evaluator will look at the sustainability of the program and provide recommendations on replication and policy changes that may be necessary.

Lastly, committee members participated in an ad hoc Quality Rating and Improvement System Work Group that provided recommendations to the Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education on the components of each level of the tiered quality rating and improvement system.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Co-chairs: Ava Harston, Illinois Federation of Teachers

Jan Maruna, IL Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Charge:

Ensure an adequate and stable supply of highly qualified and diverse early childhood professionals to provide high quality early childhood services.

Improving the early childhood workforce is a key goal for the Early Learning Council. Through the State Advisory Council Grant, 65 scholarships were issued to early childhood teachers who are seeking their English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement and credentials in FY11. In addition the Workforce Development Committee (WDC) has partnered with two- and four-year higher education institutions that are participating in the scholarship program to track their coursework and activities. Currently, recruitment efforts are in progress to expand the number of higher education institutions with ESL endorsement programs that have signed Memorandums of Agreement with the Gateways Scholarship Program.



The WDC has worked on the creation of multiple credentials for early learning professionals and these credentials were included in the RTT-ELC application. The Committee supported the planning and implementation of the Infant/Toddler Credential and all Gateways to Opportunity credentials for inclusion in the Illinois Department of Human Services Quality Counts: Quality Rating System. The Committee also convened a joint work group in conjunction with the Oversight and Coordination Committee to develop and promote system-wide recommendations regarding the education and credentials of program administrators serving children in licensed and/or publicly funded early childhood programs. The ELC passed recommendations to increase director qualifications across sectors including child care licensing done by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the DHS Quality Counts: Quality Rating System and the ISBE Preschool For All (PFA) Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) funded programs. ISBE and DCFS changes are already underway and work with DHS is pending. The recommendations are to be implemented by 2017.

Additionally, preliminary research by Erikson Institute on coursework that addresses the developmental and educational needs of culturally and linguistically diverse children at 2-and-4-year institutions indicates a significant shortage in Illinois of Bilingual/ESL coursework that includes pedagogy related to very young children. The scarcity of developmentally appropriate courses for working with young children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds impacts both the availability of diversity-proficient higher education faculty members and subsequent preparation of teachers across early childhood programs in the state.

The Workforce Diversity Joint Work Group, comprised of cross-sectional membership from both the Workforce Development and Linguistic and Cultural Diversity committees, is committed to addressing

concerns around the supply pipeline of the early childhood workforce equipped to provide bilingual or English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. This concern is particularly relevant within the context of the new bilingual preschool rules adopted by the State Board and set to be enacted in July 2014. In an effort to better serve our increasingly linguistically and culturally diverse student population, the rule calls for a teacher who is dually certified in early child development as well as bilingual education to provide instruction in preschools serving 20 or more children with the same home language.

The Professional Development Advisory Council's Access and Outreach Committee has analyzed barriers to practitioners for taking advantage of offerings through the Gateways system. The Joint Work Group has also put together a list of recommendations for higher education institutions to address this shortfall in addition to organizing a faculty forum to promote discussion of approaches to resolving the issue at no charge to participants. Lastly, a survey is being developed to send to state and federally funded early childhood programs that cover questions around workforce demographics, current preparation, and future directions for staff. The survey will provide data that will help the State better understand the current landscape for this segment of the workforce.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Co-chairs: Kathleen Villano, ECDEC, Schaumburg, Palatine and Wheeling Townships

Joan Vitale, Voices for Illinois Children

Charge:

- *Increase participation in high quality early learning programs by providing consistent, high quality information, outreach and technical assistance to families, early childhood providers, and other stakeholders.*
- *Develop recommendations on a multi-media public awareness campaign for the Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System*

The committee has begun a survey of successful public awareness campaigns for families in order to make recommendations on creating a successful public awareness strategy for the Quality Rating and Improvement System. The committee is also partnering with the Home Visiting Taskforce to create a public awareness campaign for the MIECHVP communities.

SPACE CAPACITY

Co-chairs: Mark McHugh, One Hope United

Martin Torres, Latino Policy Forum

Charge:

Increase the space capacity in communities to serve children in high-quality preschool classrooms and infant toddler care and education settings, especially where there are shortages.

Many areas of the state do not have enough early learning slots to meet demand; especially high quality early learning slots for low income families, to address this issue Governor Quinn and the General Assembly created a \$45 million Early Childhood Construction Grant Program (ECCG). Illinois received 227 applications, requesting over \$539 million for early childhood programs to construct, renovate and improve early learning centers in the highest need areas of the state.

The Space Capacity Committee was instrumental in moving this project forward. The Committee worked with the Capital Development Board (CDB), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and OECD to help: 1) Finalize the \$45 million Early Childhood Construction Grant (ECCG) Program RFA, which was released on August 29th and was due November 30th, and; 2) Finalize the data methodology to identify and prioritize underserved communities for the ECCG Program.

Methodology to prioritize communities in the state with the greatest underserved population of young children was created by the Committee in partnership with IL Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM), Chapin Hall, IFF, ISBE, and CDB. The results of this analysis were made available on the IECAM website. The analysis provided community rankings for both Illinois municipalities and Chicago community areas. CDB has indicated they plan to use these measures as part of their criteria in scoring applications for the ECCG Program.

The Committee partnered with IFF, a nonprofit lender that helps nonprofits finance, plan, and build facilities, to host a webinar on September 29th, 2011 for early childhood providers interested in applying for the ECCG Program. The webinar was well attended and had over 120 participants. For one week following the webinar, IFF responded to questions from webinar attendees to provide additional opportunities for technical assistance. In addition to archiving the webinar on the OECD website, the committee worked with the CDB and IFF to finalize and widely disseminate an FAQ document on the ECCG Program, incorporating questions from the webinar and follow up questions to the webinar.

The Committee has also been working with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) on the implementation of the Chicago set-aside of the ECCG Program, which totals \$9 million in funding. At CPS' request, the Committee made formal recommendations to CPS on its administration of the ECCG program, including the recommendations that CPS implement the IECAM data methodology for determining community need with respect to its application for ECCG funding and that it allocate 50% of its allotted ECCG funding to community-based organizations. CPS has implemented both of these recommendations, and the Committee continues to work with CPS as it rolls out an RFA to community-based programs for ECCG funding.

CDB and the Committee also worked to develop a letter to the Governor's Office in support of the state's Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge application and the inclusion of program quality in the next round of funding for the ECCG program.



INFANT AND TODDLER

Co-chairs: Jeanna Capito, Positive Parenting DuPage

Karen Yarbrough, Ounce of Prevention Fund

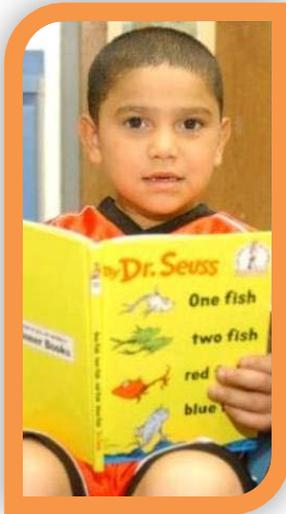
Charge:

- *Expand access to high-quality early childhood development programs for all at-risk children under three years of age.*
- *Improve the quality of infant-toddler child care.*
- *Improve coordination across infant-toddler programs and services at the state and local levels. Develop recommendations regarding the creation of an outreach system for all new parents to provide basic information and support and to identify and connect families who need more intensive services to appropriate programs and services.*
- *Develop Early Learning Standards benchmarks*

A key focus of the Council is to work to improve the quality of early childhood education and care programs serving children from birth to three and their families. The Infant and Toddler Committee is focused on three areas: access, quality and coordination; and has three workgroups committed to these areas. The work of the Committee's work groups is outlined below.

LICENSING WORK GROUP

The goal of the Licensing Workgroup is to improve the quality of infant toddler child care programs through licensing standards. This Joint Workgroup is made up of members of the Infant and Toddler Committee and the DCFS Licensing Advisory Committee. The first set of recommendations addressing health, hygiene and safe sleep passed at the June 2010 Early Learning Council meeting. The second set of recommendations addressing product safety, indoor and outdoor space, and food allergies passed at the October 2010 Early Learning Council meeting. The Early Learning Council will be working with DCFS to put these changes into child care licensing. The Workgroup is currently working on developing recommendations that include:



- Ratios and Group Size
- Continuity of Care
- Mixed-age grouping

EARLY LEARNING GUIDELINES WORKGROUP

The Infant Toddler Developmental Standards Workgroup consists of self-selected members of the Infant Toddler Committee and other interested infant and toddler stakeholders. Their goal is to create

comprehensive Early Learning Guidelines (ELG) for children ages birth to three to be implemented and utilized across service sectors and systems. Katherine Scott Little, a national expert assisted in research and report findings on ELG development and implementation processes for other select states, existing standards and requirements for Illinois service providers, and other topics as necessary.

The workgroup developed and recommended a set of standards that are developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive as part of the RTT-ELC application. What sets Illinois apart from other states is the inclusion of self regulation as an indicator with social and emotional health housed within this indicator. The workgroup is now working on a plan for meaningful implementation of the Illinois ELGs across infant toddler systems including companion materials to provide clarity and practical examples for users. The Workgroup presented its implementation plan at the June 25, 2012 Council meeting.

COMMUNITY SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT WORKGROUP (CSDWG)

The Community Systems Development Workgroup (CSDWG) serves as an advisory body across local and state-wide initiatives such as the Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program and All our Kids Networks, interested in supporting local community systems development work.

As part of this work, the CSDWG continues to discuss and refine shared language on the overall goal and purpose of community partnerships/collaborations. These discussions are critical in ensuring the workgroup develops shared, broad and consistent language across systems to guide the work at the local and state levels. In an effort to assist in facilitating this alignment, the CSDWG has created resource documents to support communities in their development of collaborative networks, for example the Community Systems Development Resource Toolkit.

The CSDWG worked with the Department of Human Services to issue an RFP for a consultant to develop a consultation training model, recruit and train consultants, engage communities, explore all levels of technical assistance (in person and electric technical assistance) and plan an annual summit. The RFP was awarded to Illinois Action for Children in May 2012 and they are moving forward with accomplishing the identified objectives.

LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Co-chairs: Harriette Herrera, DePaul University – College of Education

Josie Yanguas, Illinois Resource Center

Charge:

Develop strategies for meeting the varied needs of culturally and linguistically diverse families and young children to ensure that they are well-prepared for school.

The Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee (LCDC) submitted recommendations to the Illinois State Board of Education which stand to improve the identification and assessment procedures for preschool

English language learners (ELL's) in addition to ensuring that they receive appropriate services in early childhood programs.

The LCDC supported the University of California - Berkley's outreach efforts to encourage participation in a nationwide survey aiming to capture the demand for bilingual teachers in early childhood settings.

In conjunction with the Workforce Development Committee, the LCDC has continued to work on identifying strategies for ensuring that the workforce is adequate for meeting the requirements set forth under the bilingual pre-k statute which calls for a teacher who is dually certified in both early childhood and bilingual education. The Committee has also teamed up with the Workforce Development Committee to form the Workforce Diversity Joint Work Group. This joint work group sponsored such cross-cutting professional development opportunities for as the December 2011 35th Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers Serving Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Children, which brought internationally recognized experts to Illinois to share the latest findings on best serving ELL's with the higher education faculty who prepare our future early childhood workforce.

Parental engagement has become a focal point as the bilingual preschool rules require identification of a child's home language at the moment of enrollment through the Home Language Survey. The LCDC has discussed best practices for parental engagement with families from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds based on secondary research and drafted objectives. One of the objectives is to produce and disseminate resources for schools and programs that highlight techniques and strategies associated with meeting the need of families whose first language is something other than English. The second objective aims to increase awareness of parents of ELL about the range of opportunities available to their children in addition to better communicating the importance of knowledge about language acquisition and early childhood development.

Lastly, the Committee facilitated discussion among its stakeholders to gather input and provide comments to Illinois RTT-ELC Leadership Team on strategies best meeting the needs of all of our state's young learners. These comments informed the application process.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Co-chairs: Daniel Ibarra-Fitzgerald, Department of Children and Family Services

Donna Nylander, Valley View Early Childhood Center

Charge:

Expand access to high quality early learning programs to children who face the greatest challenges, such as children with disabilities, children who are homeless, children involved in the child welfare system, children in domestic violence shelters, etc.

In 2011-2012, the Special Populations committee work included two major initiatives for identifying and addressing barriers in programs and services for special populations of children. The barriers addressed included confusion of multiple stakeholders on the referral and screening of three to five year old

children with special needs, and general barriers encountered by children and families in the child welfare system as well as those experiencing homelessness. The work of committee resulted in two major products—a memo to stakeholders on improving service to young children and a set of recommendations to the RTT – ELC Writing Team.

The Special Populations Committee also worked with ISBE to create a technical assistance document and a memo that provides clarification regarding the role and responsibilities of local education agencies when receiving requests for initial special education evaluations for children three through five. This easy to use memo, which was distributed to all school districts, provides information they need when working with a family with young children.

DATA WORKGROUP

Co-chairs: Elliot Regenstein, EducationCounsel, LLC

Charge:

Develop recommendations for the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the state.

Data on early childhood programs has long been a priority for the Council; a priority which was reinforced by the state’s application to the RTT-ELC. In order to make informed, outcomes based decisions, the OECD contracted with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago and the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) at the University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign (UIUC) to create a comprehensive needs assessment for the Early Learning Council. Each university brought a separate set of data and expertise to the assessment and as a result were able to created a webpage that contains data in the categories of demographics (population, poverty level, language, employment, early care and education services); education variables (school, teacher, and parent); health care and health; child abuse and neglect history; multi-system families indicator; housing and financial assistance. The data is available in spreadsheets and geo-coded by public use micro-data area (PUMA)¹, county or municipality. The data will be available electronically to the public through the Office of Early Childhood Development’s website.

¹ As defined and reported by the United States Census Bureau.

In addition to the needs assessment, the Data Workgroup in coordination with the OECD issued an RFP for the design phase of the development of a unified early childhood data system, the first step in building a statewide collection with comprehensive information about children birth to five regardless of program enrollment. The vendor for this planning project began its work in June 2012. The vendor will have to coordinate existing data systems currently collecting information on segments of this population and identify strategies for further aligning and integrating early childhood data.

HOME VISITING TASK FORCE

Co-chairs: Gaylord Gieseke, Voices for Illinois Children

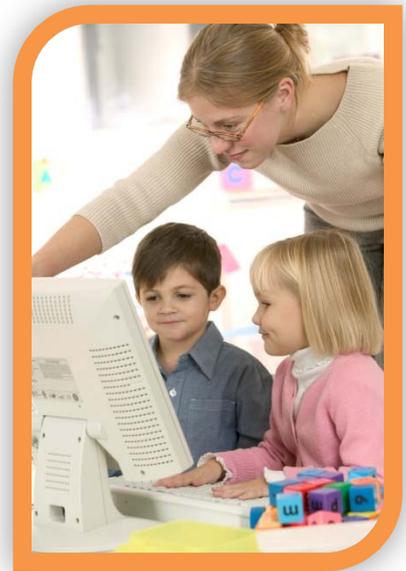
Diana Rauner, Ounce of Prevention Fund

Charge:

- *Expand access to high-quality evidence-based home visitation programs for all at-risk children less than three years of age.*
- *Improve the quality of home visitation programs and services in Illinois.*
- *Improve coordination between home visiting programs at the state and local level, as well as between home visiting and all the other services for infants and toddlers.*
- *Serve as an advisory body to the Strong Foundations project.*

Early childhood education truly begins before birth. In recognition of the importance of the pre-natal period, the Affordable Care Act (Health Care Reform Act) created the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHVP) which works to leverage systems change, a more integrated service delivery, and a holistic view of children in the context of family and community. The Home Visiting Task Force of the Council and the Illinois Department of Human Services has joint oversight of the grant Illinois received for this program.

In May 2011, a multi-disciplinary panel heard presentations from the early childhood collaborations in nine high risk communities applying to participate in the MIECHV Program. Using specifically outlined criteria, three communities were chosen to receive MIECHVP FY10 funding - Englewood/West Englewood/Greater Grand Crossing community cluster, Elgin, and Macon County. In July 2011, three additional communities were chosen to receive MIECHV FY11 funding: Cicero, Rockford, and Vermilion County. The programs chosen already have a track record of successful implementation of home visiting programs and are part of a local early childhood network. Participating communities will address issues surrounding that collection and tracking of key data on maternal and child health, child maltreatment, substance abuse, domestic violence, developmental disabilities, as well as connecting families and children with community services.



In September 2011, Illinois was awarded one of nine national MIECHVP competitive grants for expansion and research on enhancements in the area of home visiting. Illinois will evaluate the impact of the Fussy Baby program and its work with high-risk families who are dealing with the additional stress of an infant who presents challenging behaviors to caregivers. The grant will also fund an examination of the effectiveness of evidence-based home visiting programs that include the specialized services of a doula² using a randomized controlled trial in four communities with five established home visiting programs.

Illinois is currently moving forward with the implementation of the MIECHV grant. The OECD has hired Social Solutions to create a data system for the MIECHV communities to track and do their work. This data will be included in the design of the unified early childhood data system. The Task Force is also researching universal screening tools and health connections.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AD HOC COMMITTEE

As a result of strategic planning, the Executive Committee outlined a set of guiding principles and system components to inform efforts towards realizing a more unified early childhood system. To enable the Council to better track progress towards bringing about such a system, it was decided that a temporary committee would be created for the purposes of identifying key metrics and benchmarks.

The Executive Committee tasked the Ad Hoc Committee with the following responsibilities:

1. *Develop a plan for a statewide early childhood system including child, family, program, and system outcomes, goals, measures/targets, action plans and monitoring tool. The plan will include benchmarks tied to child outcomes related to goals for increased program quality, increased access to programs and improved connections to community resources.*
2. *Create a companion document for external audiences that include the framework for Illinois' vision for a statewide system of early childhood programs and services, including goals, strategies and measures of success based on child outcomes.*

The Ad Hoc Committee was comprised of focused group of self-selected members of the Executive Committee representing a variety of perspectives including higher education, research and data, advocacy, service provision, and state government, who were committed to thinking in more detail about the most meaningful ways to measure the impact of the Council's work on Illinois' early childhood system. In addition to the diverse expertise already at the table, the group also includes an author of

² Person who provides non-medical support to women and families during pregnancy, labor, and post-partum period

Illinois' Early Learning Challenge application to ensure that the priorities of the State's proposal help to inform the Committee's work.

The Ad Hoc Committee began meeting on May 1, 2012 for preliminary discussions on the types of indicators that could serve as proxies for the system components laid out during strategic planning. The initial meeting yielded a set of indicators which the Committee identified as being representative of the system components. Subsequently, the group also outlined next steps for producing the agreed upon deliverables which included compiling information on indicators, metrics, and benchmarks used by other states. The selected indicators were:

- 1) High Needs Index*
- 2) Access to High Quality Early Care & Education Programs for 0 – 3*
- 3) Access to High Quality Early Care & Education Programs for 3 – 5*
- 4) Health*
- 5) Family & Community Engagement*
- 6) School Readiness*

In order to display this information in a concise and easily accessible format, a dashboard was constructed as one side of a single page document which could be distributed to external audiences including communities, providers, and policy makers for the purposes of communicating the priorities and progress of Illinois' early childhood system.

The Committee will continue to meet during the summer of 2012 to further refine the benchmarks and develop the measures for a set of secondary metrics.

Coordination with Committees Outside of the Early Learning Council

In April 2011, the Kindergarten Readiness Stakeholder Committee with the State Board of Education (ISBE) made recommendations to establish the Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS), a developmentally appropriate formative assessment process that will yield data that can be used at multiple levels and for a variety of varying purposes, including tailoring of instruction, policy-making, and resource allocation. Members of the Council served on this Stakeholder Committee.

Illinois is moving ahead with an aggressive implementation plan for KIDS, having secured resources for implementation, commenced the administrative rulemaking process for statewide implementation, and issued a Request for Sealed Proposals for the selection of an instrument and vendor. Members of the Council and the OECD will continue to be involved with the implementation of KIDS as the project continues to move forward.



Appendix A

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pamela Althoff
State Senator
Illinois General Assembly

Martha Arntson
Executive Director
Childcare Network of Evanston

Lori Ann Baas
Executive Director
Christopher House

Karen Berman
Senior Manager, Illinois Policy
Ounce of Prevention Fund

Barbara Bowman
Chief Early Childhood Education Officer
Chicago Public Schools

Jeanna Capito
Executive Director
Positive Parenting DuPage

Mary Ellen Caron
Commissioner
Chicago Department of Family and Support Services

Tim Carpenter
Director
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Illinois

Ellen Chavez
Deputy Director, Children's Services
Casa Central

LaMar Hasbrouck
Director
Illinois Department of Public Health

George Davis
Executive Director
City of Rockford Human Services Department

Daniel Fitzgerald
Deputy Director, Division of Service
Intervention
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Jana Fleming
Director, Herr Research Center
Erikson Institute

Gaylord Gieseke
President
Voices for Illinois Children

Phyllis Glink
Executive Director
Irving Harris Foundation

Vinni Hall
Board Member
Illinois State Board of Education

Julie Hamos
Director
Illinois Healthcare and Family Services

Dan Harris
Assistant Director, Division of Family and
Community Services
Illinois Department of Human Services

Gloria Harris
Parent
Community Organizing and Family Issues



Ava Harston
Education Issues Director
Illinois Federation of Teachers

Reyna Hernandez
Assistant Superintendent, Center for Language
and Early Childhood Development
Illinois State Board of Education

Harriette Herrera
Consultant
DePaul

Colleen Jones
Executive Vice President and COO
Metropolitan Family Services

Teresa Kelly
Project Director, Strong Foundations
Partnership
*Governor's Office of Early Childhood
Development*

Christopher Koch
Superintendent
Illinois State Board of Education

Camille Lilly
State Representative
Illinois General Assembly

Suzanne Logan
President
PSO Illinois Child Care Association

Sarah Madson
Director
Woodland Heights Early Learners Center

Teresa Martin
Past President
Illinois Principals Association

Janet Maruna
Executive Director
*Illinois Network of Child Care Resource &
Referral Agencies*

Mark McHugh
Executive Director, Northern Region
Kids Hope United

Debbie Meisner-Bertauski
Board Member
Illinois Board of Higher Education

Harriet Meyer (Co-chair)
Co-Chair
Early Learning Council

Janice Moenster
Professional Development Advisor
Children's Home + Aid

Lauri Morrison Frichtl
Executive Director
Illinois Head Start Association

Joe Neri
CEO
IFF

Carolyn Newberry Schwartz
*the Oak Park Collaboration
for Early Childhood Care and Education*

Beatrice Nicols
Co-Chair
Early Intervention Council

Donna Nylander
Principal
Valley View Early Childhood Center

Geoffrey Obrzut
President
Illinois Community College Board

Richard Calica
Director
Department of Children and Family Services

Andrea Palmer
Public Service Administrator
Department of Human Services



Chuck Parr
Board President
IL Head Start Association

Sylvia Puente
Executive Director
Latino Policy Forum

Claudia Quigg
Executive Director
Baby TALK

Barbara Quinn
President
Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers

Diana Rauner
President
Ounce of Prevention Fund

Elliot Regenstein
Partner
EducationCounsel, LLC

George Reid
Executive Director
Illinois Higher Education Board

Pam Reising Rechner
IDEA Part B
Illinois State Board of Education

Vanessa Rich
Deputy Commissioner over H.S & C.C.
City of Chicago

Gina Ruther
Director
Head Start State Collaboration Office

Michelle Saddler
Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services

Linda Saterfield
Director, Division of Family and Community
Services
Illinois Department of Human Services

Jodi Scott
Regional Superintendent
ROE 27

Byrnn Siebert
VP, Director of Child Care & Early Learning
SEIU

Sara Slaughter
Education Program Director
McCormick Foundation

Julie Smith (Co-chair)
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Pat Quinn

Luz Maria Solis
Administrator, Early Childhood Programs
Chicago Public Schools

Teri Talan
Director of Research and Public Policy
*McCormick Center for Early Childhood
Leadership*

Martin Torres
Policy Analyst
Latino Policy Forum

Kathleen Villano
Project Director
*ECDEC, Schaumburg, Palatine and Wheeling
Townships*

Joan Vitale
Director of Community Engagement
Voices for Illinois Children



Appendix B

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

July 2010

- 8 Special Populations Committee videoconference, Learning Point Associates, 20 N Wacker, Suite 1231, Chicago, 2:00 – 4:00
- 12 Workforce Development Committee, James R. Thompson Center, room 9-034, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, 60601, 10:00 – 12:00
- 26 Licensing Work Group of the Infant and Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 - 12:00
- 28 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, Dominican University, Parmer Hall 7900 W Division St, River Forest, 9:30 – 12:00
- 28 Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines Work Group of the Infant Toddler Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:00. C
- 28 Community Systems Development Work Group of the Infant Toddler and Oversight and Coordination Committees, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 2:00 – 3:30

August 2010

- 12 Special Populations Committee, Learning Point Associates, 20 N Wacker, Suite 1231, Chicago, 2:00 – 4:00
- 24 Workforce Diversity Work Group of the Linguistic and Cultural Diversity and Workforce Development Committees, audio conference only, 12:00 – 1:00,
- 26 Oversight and Coordination Committee, James R. Thompson Center, 15th floor videoconference room, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, 1:00 – 3:00
- 30 Workforce Development Committee, James R. Thompson Center, room 2-029, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, 60601, 10:00 – 12:00

September 2010

- 9 Licensing Work Group of the Infant and Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 - 12:00
- 22 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, Concordia University, 3400 Christopher Center, 7400 Augusta St, River Forest, 9:30 – 12:00



- 29 Home Visiting Task Force Executive Committee Retreat, Voices for Illinois Children, 208 S. LaSalle, Suite 1409, Chicago, 10:00 – 4:00

October 2010

- 4 Illinois Early Learning Council Executive Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 1:00 – 2:30
- 6 Home Visiting Task Force videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:30
- 7 Child Welfare Work Group of the Special Populations Committee, Learning Point Associates, 20 N Wacker Dr, Suite 1231, Chicago, 2:00 – 4:00.
- 12 Public Awareness Committee, Voices for Illinois Children, 208 S. LaSalle, Suite 1490, Chicago, 11:00 - 1:00
- 14 Space Capacity Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 2:00 – 4:00
- 25 Illinois Early Learning Council videoconference, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 S. LaSalle, Chicago, 11:00 – 2:00
- 26 Special Needs Work Group of the Special Populations Committee, Valley View Early Childhood Center, 753 Dalhart Dr, Romeoville, 1:00 – 3:00. Call in number:
- 27 Research and Evaluation Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 28 Data Work Group of the Executive Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 12:30 – 2:00
- 29 Innovative Strategies Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force, audio conference only, 10:00 – 11:30

November 2010

- 1 Home Visiting Task Force Executive Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:00
- 10 Child Welfare Work Group of the Special Populations Committee, Learning Point Associates, 20 N Wacker Dr, Suite 1231, Chicago, 10:00 – 11:30. C
- 10 Special Needs Work Group of the Special Populations Committee, , Learning Point Associates, 20 N Wacker Dr, Suite 1231, Chicago, 1:00 – 3:00.

- 12 Innovative Strategies Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force, audio conference only, 10:00 – 11:30
- 15 Workforce Development Committee, James R. Thompson Center, room 2-029, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, 60601, 10:00 – 12:00
- 17 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, Christopher House Logan Square, 3255 W Altgeld, Chicago, 9:30 – 12:00
- 17 Licensing Work Group of the Infant and Toddler Committee, Illinois Action for Children, 1340 S Damen, Chicago, 1:00 - 3:00
- 18 Special Populations Committee videoconference, Learning Point Associates, 20 N Wacker, Suite 1231, Chicago, 2:00 – 4:00. C
- 19 Innovative Strategies Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force, audio conference only, 10:00 – 11:30
- 22 Community Systems Development Work Group of the Infant Toddler and Oversight and Coordination Committees, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 1:00 – 2:30

December 2010

- 3 Innovative Strategies Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force, audio conference only, 10:00 – 11:30
- 6 Parent Engagement Work Group of the Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, audio conference only, 2:00 – 3:30
- 7 Home Visiting Task Force Executive Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:00
- 16 Workforce Diversity Work Group, St. Augustine College Boardroom, 1345 W. Argyle, Chicago, 1:00 – 3:00
- 21 Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines Work Group of the Infant Toddler Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 11:00 – 1:30

January 2011

- 14 Infant Toddler Licensing Workgroup of the Infant Toddler Committee, Illinois Action for Children, 1340 S. Damen, Chicago, 2:00-4:00
- 19 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, St. Augustine College, 1345 W. Argyle, Chicago, 9:30 – 11:00



- 19 Parent Engagement Work Group of the Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, St. Augustine College, 1345 W. Argyle, Chicago, 11:00 – 12:00
- 20 Special Populations Committee videoconference, Learning Point Associates, 20 N Wacker, Suite 1231, Chicago, 2:00 – 4:00
- 21 Data Work Group of the Executive Committee, James R. Thompson Center, room 2-029, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 24 Home Visiting Task Force Executive Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 12:00 – 5:00
- 24 Workforce Development Committee, audio conference only, 1:00 – 2:00
- 26 Infant Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 11:00 – 1:00
- 31 Oversight and Coordination Committee, James R. Thompson Center, 16th floor videoconference room, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, 11:00 – 12:30

February 2011

- 7 Illinois Early Learning Council Executive Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 1:00 – 3:00
- 17 Workforce Diversity Work Group, St. Augustine College Conference Room, 1345 W. Argyle, Chicago, 1:00 – 3:00
- 21 Infant Toddler Licensing Workgroup, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 9:30 -11:30
- 22 Public Awareness Committee, Voices for Illinois Children, 208 S. LaSalle, Suite 1490, Chicago, 11:00 - 1:00
- 24 Hard to Reach Work Group of the Oversight and Coordination Committee, James R. Thompson Center, 16th floor videoconference room, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, 3:00 – 4:30
- 28 Illinois Early Learning Council videoconference, Location TBA, 11:00 – 2:00

March 2011

- 4 Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines Work Group of the Infant Toddler Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:00
- 14 Workforce Development Committee, James R. Thompson Center, room 2-029, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00



- 15 Community Systems Development Work Group of the Infant Toddler and Oversight and Coordination Committees, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 – 11:30
- 17 Special Populations Committee videoconference, Learning Point Associates, 20 N Wacker, Suite 1231, Chicago, 2:00 – 4:00
- 21 Infant Toddler Licensing Workgroup of the Infant Toddler Committee, Illinois Action for Children, 1340 S Damen, Chicago, 1:00 – 3:00

April 2011

- 11 Executive Committee Meeting, Children's Home & Aid, 125 S. Wacker, 14th floor, Chicago, 1:00 - 4:00
- 14 Workforce Development Work Group Meeting, St. Augustine College, 1345 W. Argyle, Chicago, 9:30 - 11:30
- 15 Community Systems Development Work Group of the Infant Toddler and Oversight and Coordination Committees, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00 CANCELLED
- 22 Data Work Group of the Executive Committee, Thompson Center, 2nd floor, Room 2-029, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 28 Infant Toddler Licensing Workgroup of the Infant Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 - 12:00
- 29 Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines Work Group of the Infant Toddler Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:00

May 2011

- 6 Infant Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 9 Workforce Development, 9-034 JRTC, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL 10:00 - 12:00
- 16 Infant Toddler Licensing Workgroup of the Infant Toddler Committee, Illinois Action for Children, 1340 S Damen, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 17 Home Visiting Task Force, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 19 Special Populations Committee videoconference, Learning Point Associates, 20 N Wacker, Suite 1231, Chicago, 2:00 – 4:00

- 26 Space Capacity Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:00
- 27 Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines Work Group of the Infant Toddler Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:00

June 2011

- 6 Illinois Early Learning Council Executive Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 1:00 – 2:30
- 27 Illinois Early Learning Council, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 S. LaSalle, Chicago, 11:00 – 2:00
- 29 Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines Work Group of the Infant Toddler Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:00
- 29 Oversight and Coordination, James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, Suite 16-100, 10:00 - 12:00

July 2011

- 7 Executive Committee of the Home Visiting Task Force, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 - 12:00
- 15 Data Work Group, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:30am - 12:00pm
- 25 Strategic Planning, DHS Building, 401 S. Clinton, 1st floor video conference room, Chicago, & Hay Edwards Building, 400 W. Lawrence, 007 Training Room, Springfield, 9:00am - 1:00pm

August 2011

- 4 Executive Committee of the Home Visiting Task Force conference call, Dial-in (877) 873 – 8018 Access Code 3790934#
- 22 Workforce Development Committee, 9-036 JRTC, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL 10:30am - 12:30pm
- 31 Home Visiting Task Force, Ounce of Prevention, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago & Ounce of Prevention, 2800 Montvale, Springfield 10:00am - 12:00pm
- 31 Executive Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago & Ounce of Prevention, 2800 Montvale, Springfield 1:00pm - 3:00 pm

- 31 Work Group of Space Capacity Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, 5th floor, Chicago, 10:00am - 11:30am

September 2011

- 12 Executive Committee, JRTC, Suite 14-300, Chicago and 205 Capitol, Springfield, 3:00pm - 5:00pm
- 16 Space Capacity Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 10:00am - 12:00pm
- 20 Executive Committee, JRTC, Suite 16-100, Chicago and 205 Capitol, Springfield, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 20 Community Systems Development Work Group, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 10:00am - 12:00pm
- 21 Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Committee, Latino Policy Forum, 180 N. Michigan Ave., 6th floor conference room, Chicago, 9:30am - 11:30am
- 28 Executive Committee, JRTC, Suite 16-100, Chicago and 205 Capitol, Springfield, 9:00am - 11:00am
- 30 Infant Toddler Committee, conference call 9:30am - 11:00am

October 2011

- 3 Executive Committee, Dept. of Human Services, 401 S. Clinton, 1st floor video conference room, Chicago and Dept. Human Services, Hay Edwards Building, 400 W. Lawrence, Room 007, Springfield 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- 6 Workforce Diversity Joint Task Force, St. Augustine College, 1345 W. Argyle, 9:30am - 11:30am
- 11 Early Learning Council, Holland and Knight, The Bua Room, 131 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, 10:00am - 1:00pm
- 13 Special Populations, JRTC, Dept. of Child & Family Services, 100 W. Randolph, 6th floor, Room 275, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 18 Executive Committee of Home Visiting Task Force, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 3:00 - 5:00

- 24 Strategic Planning, Dept. of Human Services, 401 S. Clinton, 1st floor video conference room, Chicago, 400 W. Lawrence, 3rd floor Suter Conference Room, Springfield, 9:00am - 3:00pm

November 2011

- 3 Space Capacity Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago & 2800 Montvale Dr., Springfield, 10:00 -12:00
- 10 Infant and Toddler Guidelines, Holland and Knight, 131 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, 10:00-4:00
- 11 Infant and Toddler Guidelines, Holland and Knight, 131 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, 10:00-4:00
- 14 Data Work Group, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00am - 12:00pm
- 15 Home Visiting Task Force, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago & 2800 Montvale Drive, Springfield, 10:00 - 12:00
- 15 Infant and Toddler Guidelines, Erikson Institute 451 North LaSalle Street , Chicago, 10:00-4:00
- 16 Infant and Toddler Guidelines, Erikson Institute 451 North LaSalle Street , Chicago, 10:00-4:00
- 16 Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Committee, 150 N. Michigan, Suite 1590, Chicago, 9:30 - 12:00
- 17 Public Awareness Committee, Voices for IL Children, 208 S. LaSalle, Suite 1490, Chicago, 11:00 - 1:00
- 29 Infant and Toddler Guidelines, Holland and Knight, 131 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, 10:00-4:00
- 30 Infant and Toddler Guidelines, Holland and Knight, 131 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, 10:00-4:00
- 30 Oversight and Coordination Committee, JRTC, Governor's Office, 100 W. Randolph, 16th floor, 1:00-3:00

December 2011

- 1 Infant and Toddler Guidelines, Erikson Institute 451 North LaSalle Street , Chicago,

10:00-4:00

- 2 Infant and Toddler Guidelines, Erikson Institute 451 North LaSalle Street , Chicago, 10:00-4:00
- 5 Workforce Development Committee, 9-036 JRTC, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago 10:30 - 12:30
- 8 Executive Committee of Home Visiting Task Force, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, 5th floor, 2:00 - 4:00
- 14 Workforce Diversity Joint Work Group, St. Augustine College, 1345 W. Argyle, Chicago, 9:30 - 11:30
- 19 Community Systems Development Work Group, Ounce of Prevention, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 - 12:00

January 2012

- 5 Infant Toddler Licensing Committee call, Dial-in 877-873-8018 Access Code 3790934#, 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- 10 Oversight and Coordination Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, 5th floor, 1:00 - 3:00
- 10 Public Awareness Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force, phone conference 1:00pm - 2:30pm
- 11 Infant Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago 10:00am -12:00pm
- 12 Special Populations, JRTC, 100 W. Randolph, 6th floor, Room 215, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 18 Linguistic & Cultural Diversity Committee, Chicago State University, Chicago, 9:30am - 12:00pm
- 24 Public Awareness Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force, Voices for IL Children, 208 S. LaSalle, Suite 1490, 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 24 Community Systems Development Work Group, 10:00a - 12:00pm
- 27 Space Capacity, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago 1:00 -3:00
- 31 Home Visiting Task Force Research & Evaluation Work Group, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 2:00 - 2:30
- 31 Infant & Toddler Licensing Work Group, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400 9:00 - 10:30



February 2012

- 6 ELC Executive Committee, IL State Board of Education Springfield and Chicago, 1:00 - 4:00
- 7 Home Visiting Task Force Health Connections, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 9:30 -10:30
- 13 Executive Committee of Home Visiting Task Force, 1:00 - 3:00, location TBD
- 15 Executive Committee, ISBE Video Conference Rooms, 100 N. 1st St., 3rd floor, Springfield and 100 w. Randolph, 14th floor, Chicago, 10:00 - 1:00
- 23 Infant Toddler Licensing Committee meeting, conference call 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- 27 Early Learning Council meeting, Erikson Institute, 451 N. LaSalle, Chicago, 11:00am - 2:00pm
- 29 HVTF Public Awareness Work Group meeting, conference call 10:00am

March 2012

- 7 Home Visiting Task Force meeting, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 2800 Montvale, Springfield, 2:00 - 4:00
- 7 Community Systems Development Work Group, 10:00 - 12:00 CANCELED
- 8 Infant Toddler Licensing Committee conference call, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 10:00am -12:00pm
- 13 Home Visiting Task Force Public Awareness Working Group, 1:00pm, phone conference
- 14 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity, 1:30 - 3:00, St. Augustine College, 1345 W. Argyle, Chicago
- 19 Home Visiting Task Force Health Connections Team, phone conference, 1:00pm
- 23 Infant Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago 10:00am - 12:00pm
- 27 Oversight and Coordination Committee, Chicago-JRTC, Governor's Office, 100 W. Randolph, 16th floor, and Springfield- 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Lincoln Board Room, 1:00-3:00

April 2012

- 3 Infant Toddler Licensing Committee conference call, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 10:00 - 12:00
- 10 Executive Committee of Home Visiting Task Force, 1:00 - 3:00, location TBD
- 12 Special Populations, 100 W. Randolph, 6th floor, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 16 Data Committee Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 10:00-12:00



- 17 Public Awareness, Voices for IL Children, 208 S. LaSalle, Suite 1490, Chicago, 11:00am - 1:00pm
- 23 Workforce Development Committee, 9-036 JRTC, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL 10:30 - 12:30
- 27 Community Systems Development Work Group, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 10:00 - 12:00
- 27 Space Capacity, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 1:00-3:00

May 2012

- 1 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting, 100 W. Randolph, 10:00-12:00
- 10 Infant Toddler Licensing Committee meeting, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 10:00 - 12:00
- 16 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, 9:30am - 12:00pm, location TBD
- 17 Ad Hoc Committee,
- 23 Family and Community Engagement Committee Conference Call, 10:00 - 12:00
- 24 Infant and Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 11:00-1:00
- 24 Data, Research and Evaluation Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 1:00-3:00

June 2012

- 6 Executive Committee of Home Visiting Task Force, 2:00 - 4:00, location TBD
- 11 Space Capacity Workgroup, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 3:00-4:30
- 12 Public Awareness Workgroup, Voices for Illinois Children, 208 S. LaSalle St., suite 1490, 11:00-12:30
- 13 Systems Integration and Alignment Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 1:00-3:00
- Infant Toddler Licensing Committee meeting, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, 10:00 - 12:00
- 25 Early Learning Council Meeting

Appendix C

COUNCIL TIMELINE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Summer 2010 The Infant and Toddler Committee, in a joint Licensing Work Group convened with the Department of Children and Family Services Child Care Licensing Advisory Committee recommends changes to licensing standards for center-based infant, toddler, and two-year-old child care programs regarding hand washing, diapering and toileting procedures, napping and sleeping, and medications.
- Fall 2010 The Joint Licensing Work Group with members of the Infant and Toddler Committee of the Early Learning Council and Children and Family Services Child Care Licensing Advisory Committee recommends changes to licensing standards for center-based infant, toddler, and two-year-old child care programs regarding physical plant and outdoor space, equipment and materials, outdoor play area, and food allergies.
- Winter 2011 The Oversight and Coordination Committee offered recommendations on qualifications for directors of early childhood centers. These recommendations were respectfully submitted to the Dept. of Human Services and the Gateways professional development system for early childhood providers.
- Spring 2011 *The Kindergarten Readiness Stakeholder Committee with the State Board of Education (ISBE) made recommendations to establish the Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS), a developmentally appropriate formative assessment process that will yield data that can be used at multiple levels and for multiple varying purposes, including instruction, policy-making, and resource allocation*
- Summer 2011 Elgin, Macon and Englewood/West Englewood/Great Grand Crossing were the three communities chosen to receive Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funding based on their successful track record of implementing home visiting and early childhood collaboratives. An additional three communities of Cicero, Rockford, and Vermilion County were chose to receive MIECHV FY11 funding.
- Summer 2011 Space Capacity Committee made recommendations to the Capital Development Board regarding the Early Childhood Construction Grant which will provide \$45m to support projects at early childhood facilities serving communities of need. Nearly 230 applications were received requesting over \$539,000,000. Applications are being reviewed and selected awardees are expected to be announced during spring 2012.

- Summer 2011 Data Work Group shared a list of key policy questions to be addressed by a unified, statewide early childhood data system based on feedback gathered from the state's early learning community. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released in the fall of 2011 and the review process is underway. A vendor responsible for designing the data system is expected to be announced in winter 2012.
- Summer 2011 the Gateways to Opportunity early childhood professional development system has awarded \$75,000 worth of SAC grant funds in the form of scholarships to 65 students pursuing careers in early care and education. An additional \$150,000 in scholarships will be awarded to support the pipeline of highly qualified, well-prepared early childhood workforce.
- Summer 2011 Applying the Science of Early Childhood Development to Policy and Practice: A Case for Action and a Call for Innovation. With support from the Casey Family Programs, OECD and DCFS co-sponsored a symposium on the neurobiological science of early development, trauma, and child welfare. Presentations were given by Jack Shonkoff, Linda Gilkerson and Bryan Samuels and a follow up symposium for state legislators and their staff was hosted in the fall in Springfield.
- Summer 2011 *Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Application issued by the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services.*
- Fall 2011 The Space Capacity Committee partnered with the Illinois Facilities Fund (IFF), a nonprofit lender that helps nonprofits finance, plan, and build facilities, to host a webinar on September 29th for early childhood providers interested in applying for the ECCG Program. The webinar was well attended and had over 120 participants. For one week following the webinar, IFF responded to questions from webinar attendees to provide additional opportunities for technical assistance.
- Fall 2011 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee submitted recommendations to Illinois' Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge leadership team suggesting strategies for better addressing the needs of the state's increasingly diverse young learners. Discussion amongst stakeholders leading up to the recommendations helped to identify gaps in the information currently collected on English language learners in particular.
- Fall 2011 The SAC grant supported the Higher Education Faculty Institute: Supporting Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students.
- Fall 2011 The Oversight and Coordination Committee provided guidance on the Hard to Reach grant funding opportunity which supports early childhood services providers piloting innovative, sustainable approaches to engaging families which

have traditionally elected not to participate in early childhood programs. Mini-grant awardees were selected in January 2012.

- Fall 2011 [A New Policy and Community Framework – Applying ACEs Research to Reduce Trauma, Promote Health and Well Being and Impact Budgeting.](#) The OECD co-sponsored a learning symposium on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) featuring co-principal investigator Robert Anda, and Washington State Family Policy Council Staff Director Laura Porter.
- Winter 2011 The OECD held a webinar for all organizations and group interested in applying for the Hard to Reach grants.
- Winter 2011 Co-chairs of the Early Learning Council played an integral role on the leadership team which composed Illinois' application for the Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge. The Executive Committee of the Council also participated in weekly meetings with the leadership team to provide guidance on the State's application priorities. Leadership team will stay in place to support Illinois' outlined priorities.
- Winter 2011 The Early Learning Council voted to approve the Illinois Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge application and Administrative Rule amendments
- Winter 2011 Illinois submitted the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge application <http://www2.illinois.gov/EARLYCHILDHOOD/Pages/EarlyLearningChallenge.aspx>
- Winter 2011 Based on recommendations of the Community Systems Development Work Group an RFP was issued for a community partnerships consultant to develop a consultation training model, recruit and train consultants, engage communities, explore all levels of technical assistance (in person and electric technical assistance) and plan an annual summit.
- Winter 2011 The Workforce Development Committee has helped to sponsor a variety of professional development workshops to familiarize post-secondary faculty and administrators with recent changes to the teacher certification process and emerging early learning research, enabling them to better prepare the early childhood workforce including support for the December 2011 [35th Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers Serving Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Children.](#)
- Winter 2011 Illinois was notified that it was not selected for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge
- Winter 2012 The Council approved a new committee structure, vision, mission, and guiding principles
- Winter 2012 6 pilot sites for selected for the Hard to Reach project

- Winter 2012 New committee Co-Chairs were named
- Winter 2012 Initial Evaluations for Special Education and Related Services for Children Ages Three through Five Memo, created by the Special Populations Committee and ISBE was sent to school districts
- Spring 2012 ISBE announced the KIDS vendor*
- Spring 2012 The Council and OECD launched a redesigned website
www.earlychildhood.illinois.gov
- Spring 2012 Illinois was notified that it can compete for up to \$35 million in the Rate to the Top-Early Learning Challenge 2
- Spring 2012 The OECD signed a contract with John Snow Inc. to design the Unified Early Childhood Data System.
- Spring 2012 The OECD signed a contract with Illinois Action for Children to provide Training and Technical Assistance to help build community Collaborations.
- Spring 2012 The Executive Committee's Ad Hoc Committee is formed
- Spring 2012 The OECD signed a contract with Positive Parenting DuPage to serve as the Home Visiting Coach

Council accomplishments in regular font. Related accomplishments in italics.

