

Early Learning Council (ELC)
Programs Standards and Quality (PSQ) Committee
May 18, 2015
Meeting Notes

Alice Giordano	Deb Widenhofer	Marcy Mendenhall
Allison Lowe Fotos	Gail Nelson	Pat Chamberlain
Anne Wharff	Holly Knicker	Pat Steinhaus
Carol Morris	Jan Maruna	Patty Oji
Cass Wolfe	Jeanna Capito	Robin Miller Young
Cathy Main	Joni Scritchlow	Safiyah Jackson
Chris Rosean	Joyce Weiner	Samir Tanna
Christi Chadwick	Judith Walker Kendrick	Sara Sebert
Cindy Mahr	Karen Zehnal	Stephanie Bernoteit
Cindy Zumwalt	Lauri Morrison Frichtl	Tonya Glaze
Dawn Thomas		Valerie Krajec

Welcome – Jan Maruna and Jeanna Capito, co-chairs

Review of the Meeting Notes

- Notes from January 20, 2015.
 - Notes approved.

Workforce Compensation Draft Report – Valerie Krajec and Joni Scritchlow, co-chairs

- Ad Hoc Committee convened in 2014 to build off the work of the PDAC Financial Support Committee. The committee is comprised of PDAC Financial Support members and others from around the state.
- Charge to the Committee
 - Review state and national workforce data.
 - Develop ranges for compensation parity.
 - Identify strategies to secure and retain a highly-skilled and professionally compensated workforce.
- Reviewed salaries, benefits, and workplace conditions of people from across the field.
- Reviewed education levels of different roles; including lead teachers, teachers, and administrators.
- Teacher factors are greatly affected by salaries, benefits, and workforce supports.
- The committee considered all the different roles: lead teachers, assistant teachers, support staff, directors, home visitors, family child care providers. The committee focused on teacher salaries in Illinois compared to other bachelor degree jobs.
 - What do the salaries need to be in order to secure the workforce?
 - What would salaries be if “professionally compensated”?
- The committee proposes that specific actions can be taken. There are incremental steps or options that are possible, realistic, and ultimately affordable to achieve.
 - Establish a base of \$12.50 per hour.
 - Establish parity with Head Start wages with a base of \$17.00 per hour.
 - Establish parity with public school teacher wages with a base at \$25.00 per hour.

Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) Report on Implementation of the Early Childhood Higher Education Grants – Stephanie Bernoteit and Cathy Main

- The Illinois Education Research Council completed a study on the implementation of the Early Childhood Higher Education Grants (EPPI).
 - The newly published report (“Summary” was sent electronically and copies are in meeting folders) full version/link will be sent to everyone after the meeting.
- Grantees consisted of partnerships of community colleges and four-year institutions.
- Partners in the grant process included: Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD), The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning, Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), Higher Education Learning and Professional Development (HELP) work group and others.
 - Maximum award amount was \$50,000 with a 10 month timeframe.
 - 66% of institutions with ECE programs across all regions of the state received EPPI grants.
- Motivations for grant participation included:
 - Building and improving partnerships between two and four year institutions and across two and four year institutions.
 - Considerations of building diversity in pipeline of candidates in the field.
 - Increasing the success of candidates (both credential and degree completion).
- All of the grantees focused at some level on partnerships/articulation:
 - Creation of new specific articulation agreements that addressed transfer of early childhood specific courses between two- and four- year partners.
 - Revisiting agreements already in place but needing updating in light of new standards and requirements.
- Grantees utilized this opportunity to design or ramp up non-licensure bachelorette degrees.
- Grantees also reviewed the AAS track (traditionally non-transferable) and created full transfer of all AAS early childhood courses.
- Long term potential implications from these grants are better and more varied pathways that candidates can seamlessly navigate to move forward.

PSQ Sub-committee Reports

- **Higher Education Learning and Professional Development (HELP) Work Group – Stephanie Bernoteit and Cathy Main, co-chairs**
 - A second round of Early Childhood Educator Preparation Innovation Grants for 2015-2016 have been allocated.
 - 7 brand new grants were awarded.
 - 5 institutions from 2014-2015 received continued implementation grants.
 - The HELP committee is focusing on three areas:
 - The EPPI grant program.
 - Webinar series for professional development.
 - Development of the HERO website.
 - If you have any suggestions for other areas of interest for the HELP committee in regards to the work of the ELC please contact Stephanie Bernoteit at bernoteit@ihbe.org or Cathy Main at cmain@uic.edu.
- **2015 Gateways to Opportunity Higher Education Forum: Collaborating for Success – Joni Scritchlow**
 - Focus was the Early Childhood Educator Preparation Program Innovation Grants.

- A goal for next year is finding additional ways of integrating and providing discussion on the information shared by the State Panel.
- 67.5% of Illinois Higher Education institutions that have early childhood and childhood development programs attended the Forum.
- The 2016 Gateways Higher Ed Forum will be held on April 14th and 15th.
- **Quality Rating and Improvement System: ExceleRate Illinois** – Gail Nelson
 - A validation study is now underway. Outreach began in the spring to school based programs, and will begin in the summer with center based programs; the goal is to determine how well our QRIS differentiates levels of quality, and how well children in the highest rated programs do compared to their peers in lower rated programs.
 - The Awards of Excellence supports have all launched, and the first application cycle is underway. There are currently nine qualified applicants for the Award of Excellence in Inclusion, one of which is eligible for the award based on the recent AoE pilot. Advisory Review panelists have been assigned and portfolio/documentation reviews are underway.
 - The Center (aka the IRC) is providing AoE supports for *Linguistically and Culturally Appropriate Practice*.
 - Early Choices is providing AoE supports for *Inclusion of Children with Special Needs*.
 - The Ounce of Prevention is providing AoE supports for *Infant and Toddler Services and for Preschool Teaching and Learning*. They are also providing preschool instructional supports with Lead.Learn.Excel.
 - Illinois Action for Children is providing AoE supports for *Family and Community Engagement*.
 - The next application cycle will happen in fall of 2015, and we expect we will have applicants from all areas of expertise.
 - ExceleRate Illinois
 - 1,476 programs in ExceleRate
 - 1 bronze.
 - 517 silver.
 - 958 gold.
 - 787 were licensed child care centers.
 - 689 were school-based programs.
 - Family Child Care – Kate Ritter
 - Family Child Care application and orientation are on-line.
 - A FAQ (frequently asked questions) will be posted shortly.
 - Work has been completed, and will be available soon, regarding alignment for currently rated QRIS family child care programs.
 - Updates on incentives and alignment for National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) accredited programs will be given at the next PSQ meeting.
 - Preschool Expansion Grants
 - Grants are up and running.
 - Bryan Stokes II has been named the Preschool Development Grant Director.
- **Illinois National Governor’s Association (NGA) Technical Assistance Grant** – Christi Chadwick
 - Illinois was one of five states selected by the National Governor’s Association for a grant to develop a comprehensive strategy for early care and education system in Illinois.
 - Goal is to develop a five to ten year implementation plan for the state.

- We will build on previous work using the key tenants of the Early Learning Council: serving children at risk, shared standards, and ExceleRate.
- There are two phases of the grant:
 - Phase One: Getting the new administration up to speed on early childhood education in Illinois.
 - Phase Two: Working on a road map for the next five to ten years.
- The NGA grant will work in conjunction with the Early Learning Council grant received from the Grand Victoria Foundation to look at the structure and governance of early learning systems, the structure of the Early Learning Council, sustainability and future issues.
- **PDAC Information and Trends partners with PSQ** – Lauri Morrison Frichtl and Dawn Thomas
 - Members of the Early Learning Council and PSQ Committee were invited to join the PDAC Information and Trends Committee’s series of interactive webinars designed to review and provide opportunities for discussion related to the Institute of Medicine’s report “Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation”.
 - First webinar will be held on Monday, June 29th from 11:30AM to 1:00PM.

Federal and State Landscape

- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Child Care Development Block Grant Reauthorization and Illinois Department of Human Services** – Holly Knicker
 - James Dimas is the new IDHS Secretary.
 - The deadline for the Child Care Development Block Grant submission of our state plan has been changed to March 1, 2016.
 - This allows states more time to plan, submit their plans, and receive technical assistance and direction from the federal government.
 - IDHS’s Child Care Advisory Council and a new ad hoc group called the Licensing and Monitoring Group has started meeting to review CCDBG requirements and to start researching and writing recommendations in order to implement the requirements and come into compliance.
 - DHS and OECD have worked together to implement the Planning Implementation and Compliance (PIC) Task Force. The task force will meet periodically help with cross-sector work.
 - Major law requirements include:
 - Changes in policy to the Child Care Assistance Program. Health and safety training requirements of all providers who receive Child Care Assistance funding.
 - States can exempt relative providers.
 - For quality there is currently a 4% set-aside of federal money that must be used for quality activities. By 2020, the amount will increase to 9% and will also have a set-aside of 3% for infant toddler activities.
 - Requirements for training and professional development and quality activities.

- **U.S. Department of Education: Preschool for All Expansion and Illinois State Board of Education – Cindy Zumwalt**
 - Pre-School Expansion Grant (FY15) approved in March 2015.
 - Programs are currently furnishing classrooms, hiring staff, and reaching out to families.
 - Brian Stokes is the new Preschool Expansion Policy Director at the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development.
 - Dr. Tony Smith is the new State Superintendent.
 - Early Childhood Block Grant Rules (includes ExceleRate and the Illinois Early Learning Guidelines) were finalized through JCAR and are posted on the ISBE website.
 - Early Childhood Advisory Group (ECAG)
 - The standards for early childhood endorsement were incorporated into Part 25 in December 2014. The standards were finalized and rules have become effective.
 - Part 25 and Part 26 went to the board on May 14, 2015. They were approved to incorporate some of the companion recommendations that were made by ECAG, including limiting the endorsement to birth through 2nd grade requiring that early childhood education field experiences and clinical practice occur in at least 2 of the 3 early childhood age groupings and requiring coursework in the biological and physical sciences that address physical life, earth, and space sciences.
 - The requirement that the Early Childhood Education Preparation program become entitled by the Gateways to Opportunity Illinois Professional Development System - aligning coursework to the benchmarks in Gateways ECE Credential Level 5 are moving forward in Part 26, but are also referenced in Part 25.
 - Part 1 the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) implementation - changes are being proposed in terms of the statewide implementation and the roll-out of KIDS.
 - Part 1, 25, and 26 are available for public comment until July 13, 2015. <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/board/meetings/2015/may/schedule.htm> and <http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/default.htm>

Advisory Bodies

- **Advocacy – Samir Tanna**
 - Successful in funding the supplement for CCAP through the end of FY15.
 - Legislators are not in agreement on how to fund child care for FY16.
 - Governor has proposed three changes to the child care budget, reducing the budget by \$156 million:
 - Increasing co-pays by about \$10 million.
 - Removing all children over the age of 5 from the program.
 - Eliminating payments to relatives in licensing exempt care.
 - Due to federal law, IDHS might not be able to implement some of these changes.
 - The General Assembly has passed an amendment that would fund Early Intervention up to about \$82.5 million which is \$23 million more than the Governor had proposed. The General

Assembly has promised not to cut eligibility to children in EI. This is an amendment, not the final bill.

- Consensus is that the budget will not be finished by May 31st.
- Chicago Public Schools – Chris Rosean
 - CPS has updated the school locator website, so parents can now see levels of quality!
 - Preschool Expansion (Full Day)
 - 55 rooms
 - 45 rooms are conversions
 - 10 new rooms
 - In process of identifying a manager to manage the project.
 - Ready to Learn applications ended at the beginning of May and will reopen July 6, 2015.
 - Offering a summer institute for Birth – 2nd grade teachers July 14 – 16, 2015.
 - Opening two new child parent centers next year under the social impact bond initiative.
 - Offering a summer program called “Kick off to Kindergarten” in 73 classrooms for 1,400 children who need extra support.
- City of Chicago – no report
- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services – Carol Morris
 - Advisory Council meeting was held on April 16, 2015.
 - System Integration meeting held the week of May 11, 2015.
 - Goal is to coordinate the Advisory Council subcommittees with the appropriate CCDBG work groups.
 - Ready to put together the pilot program for key indicators.
- Illinois Head Start Association – Lauri Morrison Frichtl
 - Head Start celebrates its 50th Anniversary today (May 18th).
 - The Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary Sylvia Burwell, was a Head Start Child.
- Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention – no report
- Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Child Care Advisory Council – no report
- Professional Development Advisory Council – Deb Widenhofer
 - PDAC Steering retreat will be held in Champaign May 20-21, 2015.
 - The Steering committee will review and finalize the PDAC Strategic Plan Phase VII.

Adjourn

Dates for FY16 ELC PSQ meetings -

- September 14, 2015 January 11, 2016 May 9, 2016