

**Systems Integration and Alignment Committee (SIAC) meeting**  
**Thursday, January 23, 2014**  
**10:00am - 12:00pm**  
**33 W Monroe, Chicago IL – 24<sup>th</sup> floor, Exec Conference Rm**  
**Conference call in #: 888-494-4032**  
**Pass code: 719 851 8485#**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes) Karen B.**

Meeting Participants:

Beth Berendsen	Emily Dorsey	Jean Mendoza
Sergio Hernandez	Andrea Densham	Denise Dell Isola
Kate Ritter	Adam Becker	Amy Zimmerman
Liliana Velazquez	Gina Ruther	Jodi Scott
Judy Walker Kendrick	Carolyn Newberry	Kim Collins
Janine Lewis	Schwartz	Karen Berman
Joanna Su	Kathy Stohr	Vanessa Rich
Donna Nylander	Chelsea Guillen	Reyna Hernandez
Kathy Vilano	Pamela Reising	Christy Serrano

**II. Review SIAC meeting minutes from 9.23.13 (5 minutes) Vanessa R.**

Minutes were approved

Vanessa gives an overview of the federal omnibus budget for FY14. The group discusses implications of the new money for early childhood and what still needs to happen to put that money to work. It is still not clear how the SIAC committee will be able to support the new initiatives on the state-wide level; further conversations will be had within the Governor's office about this.

In future SIAC meetings co-chairs will provide more formal updates on the broader early childhood initiatives of the state including RTTT efforts. Reyna shares that the ISBE board FY15 budget recommendations talks about the need for more funding for the early childhood block grant (see January 2014 board meeting at [Isbe.net/board](http://Isbe.net/board))

**III. SIAC Membership (15 minutes) Karen B.**

The new ELC governance structure outlines the need to know who Committee members are on SIAC. In the future, SIAC will ask participants to indicate whether they would like to be considered a voting member or an interested participant. SIAC also seeks input on who may be currently missing from SIAC meetings in order to bring diverse perspectives to the work. Work will still continue at the Subcommittee level; SIAC is structured in a way that seeks to strike a balance by bringing work through the Subcommittees, and holding work at the Committee level.

**IV. Subcommittee Updates (see Subcommittee reports) (45 minutes) Vanessa R.**

a. Health Subcommittee (5 minutes)

The Health Subcommittee is working to identify the role of early childhood providers in addressing the health needs of children and for assessing any gaps or barriers in the integration of health and early childhood systems. Group discusses that there is a lot to

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be gained in the intersection of early childhood and health. The group suggests that the subcommittee needs to also look at who are the kids least likely to access the health system on their own. The Subcommittee therefore could look into 1) systems gaps and 2) population gaps in the intersection of health and early childhood.

b. Community Systems Development (CSD) Subcommittee (5 minutes)

i. CCSD Stakeholder Input Meetings (5 minutes)

The Consortium of Community Systems Development (CCSD) is now in the assessment phase of its strategic planning process ([www.partnerplanact.org](http://www.partnerplanact.org)). With the assistance of representatives from the Build Initiative, the group is currently looking into the following: 1) what is the state's approach to local systems and 2) how could we better integrate and align local efforts with the state? CCSD has hosted two meetings this month (60 people participated at both meetings) and were able to unearth some common themes among the diverse panel of participants such as: the importance of local systems building work and engaging parents in that process, the need for collecting and accessing data, and the desire to legitimize local systems within the state wide system. CCSD also held a "Thoughts Leaders" meeting this month. The public is able to access new resources on the partnerplanact.org site, including a Build paper on what other states are doing in the area of community systems building. The leaders of this work have acknowledged that building a state wide community systems framework will take time but that the group is very optimistic with the direction of the work thus far.

c. Special Education Subcommittee (10 minutes)

i. Governor's Award of Excellence recommendations

Karen states that all of the Governor's Awards of Excellence will be shared at the February ELC meeting, but they won't be presented fully until the April ELC Executive Committee meeting because there is more work to be done on them. For the Governor's Award on the Inclusion of Children with Special Needs, the Subcommittee broadly defined "special needs" to include any kind of special need so that it may include children without IFSPs or IEPs. At the ExceleRate "Gold" level there is not a percentage of special needs children that programs are required to serve. However, the Subcommittee thought that there should be a certain percentage of special needs kids served in programs that are at the Award of Excellence level but the Subcommittee was mindful of programs that serve less than 15 children. Next, an "inclusive classroom profile" tool will be piloted in several programs in the State (urban, suburban and rural) that aims to assess program capacity for serving children with special needs. If appropriate, this tool will be used to help assess whether a program meets the standards

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under the Award of excellence for Inclusion of Children with Special Needs. Jeanette will assist in determining the validity of the tool through the pilot. The pilot is scheduled to end in April.

In May, members of the Subcommittee will attend the National Childhood Inclusion Conference and will share the work of the Award of on a schedule panel.

d. Braiding, Blending & Sustainable Funding Subcommittee (25 minutes)

i. Round table findings and recommendations

There were 250 registered roundtable participants across the state. Before finalizing the report from the roundtables there will be stakeholder meetings, including a meeting with the Interagency Team. The report will include recommendations that the BBSF Subcommittee will finalize in a future meeting.

The Subcommittee has been cognizant of the other initiatives going on in the early childhood field and seeks to augment the BBSF work with other stakeholder input to avoid duplicating work being done by others. There is further conversation about how the work of CCRRs and Innovation Zones also overlap.

Reyna asks if they are learning from the CCSD stakeholder meetings and Kathy confirmed that the CCSD leaders are talking with BBSF co-chairs. Karen B suggests that the leaders of these state-wide efforts (i.e. the Innovation Zones director, CCSD leaders, BBSF co-chairs, OECD and ISBE) convene a meeting to determine the best way to coordinate the work together.

**V. ELC Exec Retreat and 2013 systems work reflections (40 minutes)**

*Karen B.*

Karen B summarizes a few takeaways and next steps that came from the 1.5 day Early Learning Council Executive Committee retreat that was facilitated by Maggie McGlynn from the Build Initiative:

- 1) There is a need for the Executive Committee to revisit the big vision for what we want in an early childhood system and get back to the task of thinking about that even if it doesn't happen for years.
- 2) In past years, the ELC Committees really did the work of the OECD before OECD was fully staffed. Now that OECD has hired excellent talent to lead the early childhood work of the Governor's office, the ELC will need shift its role into more of a partnership with the OECD staff. The governance structure for this partnership is yet to be fleshed out.

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- 3) Given the reality of scarce resources in the state, the ELC really need to think about and weigh the issues of access and effectiveness (e.g. giving all kids get a little bit of the “ECBG pie”, weighed against what it really takes to get the highest risk children ready for school). The ELC will need to think about how to provide the highest risk children with more depth and intensity of services and to consider what that means in terms of allocating dollars in the State.
- 4) Other next steps for the ELC include thinking about the roles of different sectors that encompass ELC membership and consider what the best way to maximize the energy of everyone in a coordinated way so that we can we focus on a few key priorities collectively.

The group discusses that the field tends to focus on the *number* of children served over *effectiveness* of dollars spent and that there is a need to think about how to message serving less children with the same amount of dollars. There is a need to educate the public and legislators on the difference between the effectiveness versus quantity (e.g. if children are not receiving the right kinds services then there is no effectiveness). The ELC will also need to determine what we mean by “high risk” since that would define the level of services that is needed and to think about how our definition of high risk is related to program eligibility.

**VI. Next Steps (5 minutes)**

*Vanessa R.*

Upcoming Meetings:

- a. SIAC meetings:
  - i. Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 10am-12pm
  - ii. Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 10am-12pm
  - iii. Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 10am-12pm
- b. Health Subcommittee meetings:
  - i. Wednesday, February 13, 2014, 2:30pm-4:30pm
  - ii. Future meetings: second Wednesday of each month, 2:30pm-4:30pm
- c. BBSF meetings:
  - i. TBD
- d. Community Systems Development Subcommittee meetings:
  - i. Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
  - ii. Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
  - iii. Tuesday, July 1, 2014, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
  - iv. Tuesday, September 9, 2014, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
  - v. Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
- e. Special Education Subcommittee meetings:
  - i. TBD

**Handouts:** Meeting Agenda; DRAFT meeting minutes from 5.30.13; Subcommittee reports; OECD key accomplishments document

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