

Illinois Early Learning Council
Family and Community Engagement
All Families Served Subcommittee

September 16, 2014 • 10am – 12pm

Minutes

- Attendees: Carie Bires, Leah Pouw, Beth Berendsen, Bob Cammarata, Vicki Hodges, Aminah Wyatt-Jones, Fiona Anderson, Veronica Mercado, Mable Rogers, Gloria Harris, Bernard Cesarone, Dawn Thomas, Renee Tetrick, Laura Sudec, Christine Nicpon, Cerethal Burnett, TeeNeka Jones-Gueye, Donna Emmons, Joy Bah, Letitia Smith, Cynthia Wall, Sergio Hernandez

- No previous minutes to be approved

- Shared summary of 7/30/14 Full FCE survey-discussion, with attention to 2 questions:
 - *“Which of the following populations do you have (the most) knowledge or expertise with?”*
 - *Children in families in poverty or deep poverty*
 - *Children of adults who have aged out of foster care*
 - *Children in family, friend & neighbor care*
 - *Linguistically isolated families*
 - *Children/families with DCFS involvement*
 - *Children of teen parents*
 - *Children of migrant or seasonal workers*
 - *“Which Individuals, constituents, and agencies should we invite to join FCE?”*
 - *DCFS / OIG*
 - *CHA / housing / homelessness*
 - *DOC / juvenile justice*
 - *Faith-based organizations*
 - *Mentorship programs*
 - *Hunger-related groups*
 - *Teen parents / TPSN / parent groups*
 - *COFI / parent advocacy groups*
 - *Unemployment / college vocational training groups*
 - *Health / mental health*
 - Additionally reiterated need to reach out to downstate members
 - Also suggested inviting home visitors, infant/0-3, and Child Family Connection staff; especially with focus on creating “pipelines” in several Innovation Zones
 - Group could benefit from having IL Dept. of Public Health representation as well

- Strategic Planning Discussion
 - Today's charge: Develop potential goals to be grouped around the following overarching priorities:
 - Prioritizing the most at-risk children
 - Sustaining and leveraging the gains from current state/federal grant opportunities
 - Group Brainstorm...
 - Federal Initiatives (Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships, PFA Expansion grants)...
 - Building capacity for the people providing TA; helping build a knowledge base; how do we support programs as we're asking them to serve more high-needs children
 - Data...
 - Looking at capacity data (Prevention Initiative, Preschool for All, CC, Head Start); identify some parameters for data sources (what data do we actually want to use); focus on where our priority population children are in the system; continue a deep dive into data from Hard to Reach Report
 - ISBE working on encouraging their programs to enter homeless children in the reporting system; good to find similar ways to improve/maximize existing data collection
 - Crucial that individual communities can access local data; helps them identify their priority target populations; also helps communities leverage Federal funding opportunities (especially because they often emerge quickly, have short turnarounds)
 - Identify universal qualifiers (need to be confident that we're talking about the same children/populations); similarly, identify standardized definitions
 - Members suggested we consider having IECAM staff give an overview/review at future AFS or FCE meeting
 - Risk factor research...
 - Provide update on "weighted eligibility" research requested by OECD
 - A consultant is doing background research, this will be presented to full AFS and the members will then drive process
 - Member questions to consider including: how do eligibility and risk factors relate to each other?; is it possible to make a database/tracking system?; different community stakeholders will prioritize different target populations, need to make sure this is consistent with existing research
 - Presentations...
 - Question: Should AFS continue to have presenters at meetings?
 - Doing so would encourage members to contribute their specific expertise, give opportunity to educate each other about projects in process, gain feedback, foster a community of learners
 - Also provides opportunity for engaging other systems outside of early childhood; this is relevant given member survey feedback about constituencies AFS should engage in our work

Given this discussion, **the following 5 potential goals will be shared at the October 3, 2014 Full FCE meeting for feedback and voting consideration:**

1. Increase opportunities for Technical Assistance (ex: EHS/CCP); providing support to the programs that are serving high-need populations.
2. Resume data scan with focus on seeing where our priority populations are in the system; deep dive into Hard to Reach report/statewide data
3. Provide feedback on weighted eligibility criteria; emphasize opportunities for local input, driven by AFS members
4. Institute regular presentations to AFS, by AFS members, on specific projects and topics; facilitating community of learners
5. Engage other systems outside Early Childhood, focus on the systems that our priority populations interact with such as child welfare

- Updates: Innovation Zones (IZ)
 - Currently all IZ's are in the "Implementation" Phase, next is "Built to Last" Phase
 - In "Built to Last": focus on sustainability planning, integrating into local systems so work is sustained; helping to leverage IZ work through private funding; capacity building for leaders and the collaborations themselves (to help communities own this work, stay engaged after funding)
 - Cicero: moving forward with Pop-Up Preschool model and Parent Ambassadors; doing mapping, using this to identify where Pop Ups will go
 - NLIZ: doing information sharing on different parts of the pipeline of services, for example delivering different messaging based on season (summer/winter) so people have relationship with providers throughout the year, and not simply a one-time ask; several families have been connected from homeless shelter to Carole Robertson; IZ functioning as navigators within the pipeline of service
 - E. St Louis: convened community meetings and connected providers that had never sat together; still focused on coordinated screening, parent ambassadors (will work to get parents their Level 1 EC Credential)
 - Thornton: had summer kick-off; gold-rated providers functioning as mentors; going out and engaging other providers in quality improvement
 - Each community has identified a series of "Challenge" → "Why" → "Strategy"
 - For example (Aurora)... Low homeless participation (challenge) → families are isolated (why) → shared intake worker, broader collaboration (strategy)
 - IZ also exploring concept of navigator role for most vulnerable families, almost an early childhood case manager
 - Looking at how to not penalize programs that choose to go out and engage the hard-to-reach families, rather than the moderate-risk families; incentivizing appropriate part of the system

- Updates: Early Childhood Transportation
 - Work group making progress on child care transportation survey; shared sample survey items with members; timeline of revisions is to present final draft/version at Oct 3rd Full FCE meeting, pending approval, INCCRRA will distribute

- Updates: General
 - Discussed scheduling future meetings to start at 11am, to facilitate downstate member attendance; also consider using IAFC Homewood Office
 - Members requested link for Excelerate sites, interested in viewing marketing materials/brochures at next meeting

- Upcoming Meeting Dates
 - Full FCE Committee... October 3rd 2014 (Friday, 1-3pm)
 - AFS Subcommittee... November 20th 2014 (Thurs, 10am-12pm)

 - Full FCE Committee... January 7th 2015 (Wed, 1-3pm)
 - AFS Subcommittee... February 3rd 2015 (Tues, 10am-12pm)