

**Systems Integration and Alignment Committee (SIAC) meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2014**  
**10:00am - 12:00pm**  
**33 W Monroe, Chicago IL – 24<sup>th</sup> floor, Board Rm West**  
**Conference call in #: 888-494-4032**  
**Pass code: 719 851 8485#**

**Meeting Minutes**

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

*Karen B.*

Meeting Participants:

Janine Lewis

Joanna Su

Chelsea Guillen

Cindy Zumwalt

Emily Dorsey

Gina Ruther

Marcy Mendenhall

Edna Navarro

Adam Becker

Karen Berman

Denise Dell Isola

Beth Berendsen

Carie Bires

Judy Walker Kendrick

Reyna Hernandez

Donna Nylander

Christy Serrano

**II. Review SIAC meeting minutes from 1.23.14 (5 minutes)**

*Karen B.*

Minutes Approved

**III. Federal and state initiative updates (20 minutes)**

*Karen B.*

Karen provides an overview of the Early Head Start Child Care partnership and the opportunity to expand 0-3 services to approximately 2000 children in Illinois. Participants ask where the leadership is coming from in the state for responding to this opportunity. Karen answers that the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development is taking the lead and that they will be reaching out to providers and developing resources for new partnerships. The FOA will be released sometime in the spring and there will likely be a 2-4 month window to respond.

Karen also updates the group on the MIECHV reauthorization that is still to moving through congress and share that state advocates are expecting early childhood items to be a big part of the state budget.

**IV. SIAC Work Plan update and discussion (30 minutes)**

*Reyna H.*

Reyna presents a systems diagram to the group and leads a discussion on how SIAC fits into the larger systems building arena. She shares that at the ELC Executive retreat there was stated interest to prioritize serving children in a deeper way instead of spreading resources thin to ensure that every child has access to something. She shares that this requires an intentional move to "serve less children with more money". This will also require that we define what we mean by at-risk and prioritize the populations that need the most support. While we are thinking about prioritizing populations in order to achieve a more equitable way of serving children, the ELC needs to also think about how the different committees and subcommittees can better coordinate their work by shifting their thinking in this direction. Since an important role of the council involves thinking of high level systems issues, we want to encourage

**Committee Charge:** *The Systems Integration and Alignment Committee will work to recommend appropriate changes to early childhood systems and will work to improve coordination and integration across early childhood programs in order to address the comprehensive nature of children's healthy development and readiness for school. The Committee will provide input and feedback on key federal and state early childhood initiatives that impact cross sector early childhood systems. In moving this work forward, the Committee will identify external tables and other ELC Committees and Workgroups to ensure work is informed and coordinated.*

**Systems Integration and Alignment Committee (SIAC) meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2014**  
**10:00am - 12:00pm**  
**33 W Monroe, Chicago IL – 24<sup>th</sup> floor, Board Rm West**  
**Conference call in #: 888-494-4032**  
**Pass code: 719 851 8485#**

conversations around systems vision for integration and alignment and leave the work of overseeing projects and initiatives to the governor's office now that they are fully staffed.

Reyna walks through the systems diagram she created that summarizes how all the pieces of work in the ELC fit together. She offers that our systems needs to move away from separating 0-3 and 3-5 and that we need to maintain the frame of providing "intensive and effective" services across the continuum. Reyna discusses the issue of ensuring that there is "sufficient touch" and that we don't just focus on the number of children that are being served because those services are only effective when we meet those family's needs. This will require a resource shift in the state but it's already done in some programs (e.g. home visiting supplies the right amount of dosage that is dependent on the needs of the family). Spending "more money for fewer kids" is OK because what we aim to accomplish is more equitable and services are more effective than spreading resources thin. In its systems thinking, SIAC and its subcommittees need to hold that vision.

The group discusses the issue of defining and prioritizing at-risk children. A participant questions the available definitions for at-risk because sometimes a family is not vulnerable even if they meet certain definitions of at-risk. Carie Bires, co-chair of the All Families Served Subcommittee, offers that the Subcommittee has been charged with developing a vulnerability framework based on the initial "Hard to Reach" recommendations that will create a more sophisticated and evidence based tool for determining risk (for PFA eligibility specifically). Reyna agrees that there needs to be a shared understanding of risk factors and how they interact so that services are "more kid focused and not so program focused". We could be delivering very high quality services in one program but those services are not effective because they are not matching to what children in that program need. SIAC can help deliver a frame for identifying the intersection between program quality and ensuring that program services match the needs of children.

**V. Subcommittee Updates (see Subcommittee reports) (50 minutes)**

*Vanessa R.*

a. Health Subcommittee

The Health Subcommittee will begin to meet quarterly while a Final Product Ad Hoc Work Group meets monthly to synthesize the health matrices into a set of written recommendations for addressing service gaps and improving coordination across the early childhood system in order to better support children's health.

The Hearing and Vision Ad Hoc Work Group is developing recommendations to IDPH on system changes that will ultimately improve access to screening trainings for early childhood professionals and access to hearing and vision screenings for children ages 0-5. A draft of these recommendations will be shared at the next Health Subcommittee meeting on April 9th for feedback and input.

**Committee Charge:** *The Systems Integration and Alignment Committee will work to recommend appropriate changes to early childhood systems and will work to improve coordination and integration across early childhood programs in order to address the comprehensive nature of children's healthy development and readiness for school. The Committee will provide input and feedback on key federal and state early childhood initiatives that impact cross sector early childhood systems. In moving this work forward, the Committee will identify external tables and other ELC Committees and Workgroups to ensure work is informed and coordinated.*

**Systems Integration and Alignment Committee (SIAC) meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2014**  
**10:00am - 12:00pm**  
**33 W Monroe, Chicago IL – 24<sup>th</sup> floor, Board Rm West**  
**Conference call in #: 888-494-4032**  
**Pass code: 719 851 8485#**

Work groups for Oral Health and Obesity Prevention convene on a regular basis to work on action steps under each of their respective work objectives under the Health Subcommittee work plan.

- b. Community Systems Development Subcommittee  
The CSD Subcommittee continues to advise statewide community systems development initiatives, including MIECHV and the RTTT-ELC's Consortium for Community Systems Development and its statewide strategic planning process.  
The CSD Subcommittee is researching how various early childhood-related governmental entities engage with community systems and what requirements (if any) related to community systems development they have for their grantees. The Subcommittee is also collaborating with BBSF Subcommittee to support and implement recommendations from their roundtable findings.
- c. Special Education Subcommittee  
The Special Education Subcommittee has completed the Governor's Award of Excellence for the Inclusion of Children with Special Needs and developed an inventory of trainings and professional development opportunities on inclusion that are aligned with the Award of Excellence. The Subcommittee has developed guidance on the general resources that are necessary for a successful implementation of this Award of Excellence.  
Three providers are piloting the Awards of Excellence and peer reviewers from the Subcommittee will review their applications. The mock application and assessment process will provide additional information about what else may be needed to help programs submit a successful application and to ensure that the assessment tool is valid and reliable.  
The Subcommittee will work to develop an MOU template that can be used between early childhood care and education programs, LEAs and CFCs. In addition, the Subcommittee will produce a list of ways in which children can access screenings when programs are not conducting them.
- d. Braiding, Blending & Sustainable Funding Subcommittee
  - i. Round table findings and recommendations  
Sam Aigner-Treworgy gives the group an overview of the round table report and asks for input on the document. Feedback she has received so far includes needing to create some charts/visuals that will help display and prioritize the recommendations for next steps and needing to identify implications of the recommendations on state agencies. The group discusses how the recommendations will be integrated into the recommendations coming out of other Committees and Subcommittees, like Community Systems Development

**Committee Charge:** *The Systems Integration and Alignment Committee will work to recommend appropriate changes to early childhood systems and will work to improve coordination and integration across early childhood programs in order to address the comprehensive nature of children's healthy development and readiness for school. The Committee will provide input and feedback on key federal and state early childhood initiatives that impact cross sector early childhood systems. In moving this work forward, the Committee will identify external tables and other ELC Committees and Workgroups to ensure work is informed and coordinated.*

**Systems Integration and Alignment Committee (SIAC) meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2014**  
**10:00am - 12:00pm**  
**33 W Monroe, Chicago IL – 24<sup>th</sup> floor, Board Rm West**  
**Conference call in #: 888-494-4032**  
**Pass code: 719 851 8485#**

and the Data Research and Evaluation Committee. The recommendations also propose an ongoing mechanism for programs to communicate with the state and the need to be clear about when an issue is due to a lack of resources versus lack of communication between programs and state (e.g. programs don't know where to find funding). The work of the BBSF leadership team now is to track the feedback, respond to requests for meetings, make changes and produce the final report. The target timeline for completion of the final report is April 2014.

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

Vanessa R.

Upcoming Meetings:

- a. SIAC meetings:
  - i. Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 10am-12pm
  - ii. Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 10am-12pm
- b. Health Subcommittee meetings:
  - i. Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 2:30pm-4:30pm
  - ii. Future meetings: May 14, Sept 10, and Dec 10
- c. BBSF meetings:
  - i. TBD
- d. Community Systems Development Subcommittee meetings:
  - i. Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
  - ii. Tuesday, July 1, 2014, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
  - iii. Tuesday, September 9, 2014, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
  - iv. 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 1.23.14; SIAC Fitting it all together; Subcommittee updates; MIECHV update; CCSD update

**Committee Charge:** *The Systems Integration and Alignment Committee will work to recommend appropriate changes to early childhood systems and will work to improve coordination and integration across early childhood programs in order to address the comprehensive nature of children's healthy development and readiness for school. The Committee will provide input and feedback on key federal and state early childhood initiatives that impact cross sector early childhood systems. In moving this work forward, the Committee will identify external tables and other ELC Committees and Workgroups to ensure work is informed and coordinated.*