

P-20 Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 24, 2013
10:00am-3:00pm

Elgin Child and Family Resource Center
210 National Street
Elgin, IL

MINUTES

Chicago Participants: Karen Hunter Anderson, Harry Berman, Maria Capoccia, Lizanne DeStefano, Roger Eddy, Larry Frank (for Audrey Soglin), Theresa Hawley, Janet Holt, Erika Hunt, Madelyn James (for Gaylord Gieseke), Joyce Karon, Melissa Mitchell, John Rico, Jane Russell, Julie Smith, Robin Steans, Deb Strauss, Jason Tyszko, Miguel del Valle, Cathy Veal, Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia (for Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie)

I. **Site Tours**

Center Director and staff provided tours of the site including the family resource room to Council members and guest.

II. **Council Welcome & Introductions** – Chairman Miguel del Valle

Chairman Miguel del Valle thanked One Hope United for hosting the Council in particular Associate Executive Director Beth Lakier and Center Director Colleen Bandy. He provided a brief background on the site and indicated that Beth would welcome the Council following introductions of the membersamb.

Council members in the room introduced themselves.

Following introductions, Beth provided an overview of One Hope United, a comprehensive social service organization which has been in operation for over a century and operates the Center.

III. **Site Welcome & Introduction** – Director Colleen Bandy, Elgin Early Child & Family Resource Center

The Chair thanked Beth for her remarks and introduced Center Director Colleen Bandy who provided an overview of the local demographics and needs of the population served as well as unique features of the center such as the family resource room, bilingual staff, and birth through Kindergarten classrooms.

IV. Minutes & Announcements

Chair called for edits or additions to the April 2013 minutes. Minutes were accepted as presented.

Chair offered two acknowledgements for those leaving the service of the Council. He thanked Max McGee, former president of the Illinois Math and Science Academy and co-chair of the Data, Assessment, and Accountability Committee. He noted that Max would be succeeded by Cathy Veal, former Vice President for Strategy and Advancement at IMSA and Interim President.

He also thanked Jason Tyszko, former Deputy Chief of Staff at the IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, for his work on the Illinois Pathways Initiative and STEM Learning Exchanges as well as his dedication to enhancing connections between the education and workforce communities.

V. Strengthening the Quality of Illinois' Early Childhood System – Director Theresa Hawley, Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

Chair introduced Theresa Hawley, Director of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD), to kick off the meeting with a presentation providing an overview of the early childhood population, the state early childhood, and major statewide initiatives.

Theresa's presentation was included in the meeting materials available online. Key information included a breakdown of the demographics of Illinois' birth to five population which consists of roughly one million children of whom forty percent are low income. She also provided information on the racial and geographic break down of this age group. She also noted that two thirds of low income children are served by Preschool for All and Head Start combined.

Theresa went on to provide an overview of the Early Learning Challenge, a federal grant Illinois was awarded to strengthen the state's early childhood system and enhance quality. The state will receive \$52.5M to carry out the system development work outlined in its application to the federal government including developing and implementing the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) known as ExeRate, strengthening professional development, and improving quality across programs.

She concluded by highlighting the federal Preschool for All proposal, describing the Governor's awards for excellence as part of the QRIS, and noting some of the challenges faced by the early childhood system including balancing access versus effectiveness in an environment of limited funds, coordinating the system across programs, and maintaining a comprehensive approach that includes family engagement.

VI. P-3 Alignment: Lessons from the Elgin Partnership for Early Learning on Leveraging Local Impact

Following the statewide perspective, the Chair welcomed Jeanna Capito, Director of Positive Parenting DuPage to moderate the panel on early childhood collaboration. Jeanna introduced herself and noted that she served as an advisor to the Elgin Partnership for Early Learning (EPEL). She proceeded by providing background on the formation of the coalition and a brief overview of the partners. Lastly, she introduced the panelists including Colleen Bandy, Director of the Elgin Early Child & Family Resource Center; Lynne Bosley, President of the United Way of Elgin; Theresa Heaton,

Director of Health Promotion at the Kane County Health Department; and Julie Kallenbach, Director of Early Learner Initiatives at Elgin School District U-46.

Each panelist described the work of their organization/agency and provided a brief summary of their role in the collaborative. Jeanna went on to pose questions to the panel regarding benefits/rewards realized by working in coordination, biggest lessons learned, and tips for overcoming challenges.

Panelists discussed their Give Me 5 campaign which reminds families that parents are a child's first teacher and encourages them to 1) talk 2) play 3) read 4) do and 5) write with their young children. Lastly, they circulated their jointly developed Getting Kids Ready for Kindergarten calendar which is available in English and Spanish and features tips for promoting their child's growth in each of these areas.

Panel concluded with brief questions and comments from the Council.

VII. Preparing the Pipeline: Developing the Early Childhood Workforce

Following the early childhood alignment panel, Council Coordinator Lizanne DeStefano moderated a second panel focused on workforce development within the early learning field. She began by providing a brief introduction of each of the panelists including Stephanie Bernoteit, Academic Affairs Division at IL Board of Higher Education (IBHE); Cathy Main, Clinical Instructor and Program Coordinator of the Early Childhood Education Program at the University of Illinois (UIC) at Chicago; Karen McCarthy, Early Childhood Division at IL State Board of Education (ISBE); and Joellyn Whitehead, Director of Data & Research at the IL Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (INCCRRA).

Joellyn introduced INCCRRA and provided an overview of the Gateways to Opportunity, the professional development system housed at the Department of Human Services which tracks certifications and credentials for the early care and education workforce. She also described the diversity of the early childhood workforce in terms of levels of education, credentialing, and wages by program type.

Lastly, she highlighted degree trends in the early child programs of study which points to an increase in Bachelor's degrees and a decrease in Associate's degrees. Moreover, of those indicating that they have "some college" have an average of 58 credit hours which is 2 hours short of an Associate's degree.

The Chair inquired about proportion of family, friend, and neighbor care providers are represented in the Gateways System. It was estimated that this figure was around one quarter.

Karen McCarthy from ISBE discussed the agency's efforts to better support the field including early learning (birth to age 3) guidelines, the roll out of the Prevention Initiative implementation manual, and the early learning and development (age 3 to 5) standards. Training around the updated early learning standards is beginning this summer. She went on to remind the Council of the recent endorsement changes as well as principal endorsement which requires programs to include early childhood content in addition to special education and English Language Learner (ELL) content.

She also noted that increased use of technology has expanded the agency's reach in terms of providing professional development opportunities. The agency has expanded use of both webinars and online learning communities. These have been especially helpful in more rural areas and areas with limited funding are able to take advantage of webinars that deliver staff development content remotely.

Karen also noted that a rule was adopted in 2010 that requires ELL's have to be provided with someone who is dually certified to teach early childhood and either ELL or bilingual. Lastly, she noted that there are grant funds to support ongoing work in the area of cultural and linguistic competency as well as early math.

Finally, Karen described the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) which is a comprehensive observation based assessment currently in the pilot phase. The information provided through KIDS will be used to inform instruction and better support the needs of individual children.

Stephanie described the partnerships IBHE has formed with OECD to enhance the recruitment and preparation of early care and education teachers. Areas of focus will include financial supports and articulation of coursework.

Cathy shared the key findings of *Breaking It Down and Building It Out: Enhancing Collective Capacity to Improve Early Childhood Teacher Preparation in Illinois*, a report produced in June 2012 by UIC's College of Education which focuses on strategies for recruiting, preparing, and supporting a high quality early care and education teaching workforce. She echoed the comments of other panelists around the unique challenges and complexities of early childhood as opposed to other educator preparation programs.

She also described the early childhood programs of study which she oversees at the University of Illinois in Chicago including their alternative certification program. She indicated that many of her students are not traditional students in that they are typically adults and often times who are already in the field.

Madelyn James made a comment regarding the number of early childhood teachers which we are producing as a state and being able to provide the professional supports needed to ensure we have a sufficient, well-trained, culturally competent workforce.

Cathy responded to say that given the needs, we need to tap into different pools of potential educators including traditional students, those already in the field who are not yet certified as well as those who are career changers in order to meet the workforce needs in this area.

Erika added that the panel demonstrated the diversity of training and background present in the early learning workforce and the importance of aligning both pre-service and in-service training.

VIII. Lunch

Council broke for lunch.

IX. Family Engagement: Parents as Teachers and Advocates

Following lunch, the Chair reconvened the meeting for a final panel on family engagement. He commented on how critical this factor is in better supporting student learning at all levels of education from birth through postsecondary. He also noted that a comprehensive approach which effectively engages families is vital to a high quality education system.

Lizanne facilitated this panel which included Barbara Bowman, Erikson Institute and Erika Hunt, Illinois State University – Child Parent Centers Model; Lucy Gomez, Logan Square Neighborhood Association; and Melissa Mitchell, Illinois

Federation for Community Schools. Each panelist took a moment to describe their organization and their work as it relates to family engagement.

Erika and Barbara described the Child Parent Center (CPC) model which encourages families to see the school as a resource hub. Barbara shared the history of the model which was developed in 1968 and first piloted for study in Chicago in the 1980's. She shared that it was one of the first research studies that provided longitudinal data validating the positive impact of early childhood experiences long term. She noted the core elements including a high quality early childhood program collocated with the public school to facilitate a birth through grade three model and connected families to comprehensive support services. Parents are welcomed into the school and provided space to explore resources and work with their students and educators. Home visitation was embedded and teachers followed the students from year to year.

Finally, she summarized the findings of the initial study. Students from the original cohort were found to have higher rates of school readiness and standard achievement scores, more likely to graduate on time, and less likely to experience school mobility, grade retention, and delinquency. The return on investment was estimated to be \$8 for every dollar spent on the program.

Erika described the current CPC study being run out of the University of Minnesota through an I3 grant. Participating school districts include Chicago Public Schools, Unit 5 (Bloomington/Normal), St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Evanston. This study is a scale up and includes varied environments but she emphasized the focus on continuity of services for children and their families from birth to grade 3. She went on to describe the comprehensive and embedded supports as well as local coordination required to maintain fidelity to this model.

Lucy described Logan Square Neighborhood Association's grassroots work with parents in the community to encourage more them playing a more active role in their students' education. She began by describing the population of Logan Square which includes high percentages of immigrant families whose first language is Spanish.

She went on to highlight several of the programs related to education in which the Association is involved. She began with the parent mentor program which brings parents into the schools to tutor children which not only benefits the students but also enables parents to take on leadership role and better understand what they have to offer to the community. Next, she described the school based learning centers which provides GED and ESL courses as well as parenting classes. She went on to share the organization's partnership with Northeastern Illinois University to get candidates from the community certified as teachers. She noted that one challenge they incur with this particular effort is assisting their candidates with passing the TAP test. Lastly, she noted an advocacy initiative they have to engage parents as stakeholders around the issues impacting their students. She also mentioned a new focus for the organization on getting children outside and active.

Melissa Mitchell began by describing the mission and work of community schools. She went on to highlight the role of resource coordinators in schools. She emphasized the importance of building the bridge between families, schools, and community resources including creating a welcoming environment for positive interactions. She emphasized meaningful connections and opportunities such as shared leadership structures. She finished by identifying challenges and providing examples of strategies for overcoming barriers to partnerships between parents, schools, and community resources.

X. Committee Updates

a. Data, Assessment, & Accountability

Robin Steans thanked Max for her leadership as her co-chair. The Committee indicated that they have continued to work with ISBE around the refinement and roll out of the State School Report Card due out in October. The Committee also plans to begin working issues related to the school funding formula. They will also be revisiting the status of the longitudinal data system and the IL Shared Learning Environment (ISLE).

Lastly, she mentioned that there are still a number of decisions to be made around Common Core and PARCC within the context of the ACT, ISAT, and technological capacity challenges.

b. School, College, & Career Readiness

Committee Co-chair John Rico noted that the Committee's work has focused on that of its joint sub-group, the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Joint Working Group.

c. Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Joint Work Group

Ben Boer presented on the process of stakeholder meetings which led to the development of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Joint Working Group's College and Career Readiness framework recommendations. Draft was included in meeting materials. Draft framework was offered for endorsement of the Council. Robin noted that the group would convene ongoing meetings to determine next steps.

John thanked Jason Tyszko for all his hard work on these set of recommendations.

- *Action Item: Review of Recommendations for Endorsement*
Council endorsed recommendations with Jane Russell abstaining.

d. Teacher & Leader Effectiveness

i. Educator Licensure Steering Group

Erika Hunt noted that she and her co-chair Audrey Soglin have begun holding meetings focused on the diversity of the educator pipeline which does not currently reflect the demographic make-up of Illinois' student population. They have held meetings to hear from the Illinois Pathways Initiative and the health exchange specifically as well as local partnerships between school districts and institutions of higher education. The Committee hopes to schedule additional webinars to continue to explore innovative models as well as those that have demonstrated success in enhancing the diversity of the educator pipeline in the past.

e. Family, Youth, and Community Engagement

Committee has continued to work with ISBE on developing training materials and a communications plan in support of the development and release of the state school report card.

f. Implementation Review Committee

Jane Russell and Roger Eddy shared the charge of their newly formed committee and indicated that they were in the process of planning for their first meeting which would serve to identify work priorities for the group. Co-chairs along with the support of P-20 staff have continued to recruit members to participate in the work of the Committee. First meeting to be scheduled in early fall.

g. Finance and Governance

It was indicated that the committee is in transition. The Chair is in the process of identifying a co-chair so that they may get underway with identifying their next project.

XI. Agency Updates

a. DCEO

Jason thanked the Council for their support on initiatives to connect the education and workforce worlds. He provided brief updates on Pathways and the STEM Learning Exchanges. He also noted that George Letavish would be handling his portfolio in the interim.

b. IBHE

Harry Berman noted that higher education is working in partnership with ISBE and ICCB to education postsecondary field around PARCC. A kick off with higher education leaders has been scheduled.

He also noted that IBHE is in partnership with the IL Department of Transportation to better support students studying to be civil engineers including financial assistance.

Lastly, he spoke about guided pathways to success as laid out by Complete College America (CCA) which is an effort to decrease the time to degree and amount of student debt while enhancing completion. The agency is pursuing a CCA grant to support these efforts.

He also thanked Erika Hunt in advance for her scheduled presentation to the Board on the status of principal evaluation

c. ICCB

Karen Hunter Anderson noted that the GED testing fee has gone up due to a change in vendor for the test and move to electronic testing. She also noted that Illinois' community college system has added 7 career and technical education programs.

d. IERC

Janet indicated that a report on the educator pipeline would be published by the following Council meeting.

e. ISAC

Eric Zarnikow thanked all the agencies and non-government partners for their work on College Changes Everything which had nearly 400 participants. He also thanked the Lt. Governor, Rep. Chapa LaVia, and P-20 Council members who presented at the event. He noted the growing popularity of the event and the partnerships forming as a result of the opportunity to network around shared challenges and strategies for overcoming them. He also recognized Elgin Community College which was acknowledged at the event.

He also noted that as a follow up to the MAP Task Force report a subsequent working group would be formed to look at advising and supports to students around MAP grants and financial aid. ISAC is currently surveying institutions regarding their advising efforts as well as students on what has been effective for them.

XII. Other Business & Announcements

The Chair recognized Robin Steans to introduce Julianne Buck from the Community Foundation of Grundy Count. She explained that Julie is informally surveying communities about their efforts to develop local P- 20 partnerships. Julie indicated that she hoped to connect with the Council in the future and looks forward to supporting one another's work.

The Chair once again thanked One Hope United and the Elgin Child & Family Resource Center for graciously hosting the Council and its guests.

There was a call for anyone interested in taking a site tour following the meeting for those who were not able to participate during the morning.

Lastly, the Chair announced that the next P-20 Council meeting on was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, October 23, with the location to be determined.

XIII. Adjourned