

We envision Illinois as a place where every young child – regardless of race, ethnicity, income, language, geography, ability, immigration status, or other circumstance – receives the strongest possible start to life so that they grow up safe, healthy, happy, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

## Illinois Early Learning Council

February 22, 2021, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Join via [Webex](#) | Meeting Number: 177 429 6513 | Meeting Password: 3VfKWGtPU29

If joining by phone, dial: 1-312-535-8110

### Agenda

**11:00** Welcome and Overview of the Agenda (10 min)

**11:10** Follow-up from November Full Early Learning Council Meeting (10 min)

#### *Presenters/Facilitators:*

- Phyllis Glink, Early Learning Council Co-chair
- Jesse Ruiz, Early Learning Council Co-chair

#### *In Materials:*

- Key Themes – November 2020 ELC Breakout Sessions

#### *Questions:*

- What are your reflections?
- How can we ensure next steps align with the work of the Commission, PN3, PDG B-5 Strategic Plan, and the ELC racial equity work?

**11:20** Urgent Call for Family Engagement (25 min)

- Part I: Framing the Issue (10 min)
  - Theresa Hawley, First Assistant Deputy Governor for Education (Governor's Office)
- Part II: Breakout Discussion Groups (15 min)

#### *Questions:*

- What can we do to reach more families while maintaining the COVID-19 safety guidelines?
- To reach more families:
  - What needs to happen at the state level?
  - What needs to happen at the community level?
- What can the ELC do now to mobilize around this issue?

**11:45** Share and Discuss (15 min)

#### *Facilitators:*

- Phyllis Glink, Early Learning Council Co-chair
- Jesse Ruiz, Early Learning Council Co-chair

**Racial Equity Definition:** A racially equitable society values and embraces all racial/ethnic identities. In such a society, one's racial/ethnic identity (particularly Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Asian) is not a factor in an individual's ability to prosper. An early learning system that is racially equitable is driven by data and ensures that:

- Every young child and family regardless of race, ethnicity, and social circumstance has everything s/he/they need to develop optimally;
- Resources, opportunities, rewards, and burdens are fairly distributed across groups and communities so that those with the greatest challenges are adequately supported and not further disadvantaged; and
- Systems and policies are designed, reframed, or eliminated to promote greater justice for children and families.

#### **Racial Equity Priorities:**

- 1) Align and standardize race/ethnicity data collection and reporting;
- 2) Evaluate and identify whether processes for distributing resources exacerbate racial disparities, including agency contracting;
- 3) Address race/ethnicity disparities in terms of workforce compensation and advancement;
- 4) Eliminate racial/ethnic disparities for children participating in all programs that contribute to school readiness and life success by addressing racial disparities in enrollment in preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and in prenatal to age 3 services.

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## 12:00 Targeting Federal Funds to Maximize Benefits (25 min)

- Part I: Framing the Situation (10 min)
  - Jamilah R. Jor'dan, Executive Director (GOECD)
  - Bethany Patten, Associate Director, Office of Early Childhood (IDHS)
- Part II: Breakout Discussion Groups (15 min)

### Questions:

- What strategies are needed that focus on overcoming pandemic-related issues?
- In what areas of the field have things stabilized enough that we can shift our funding strategy away from emergency relief and towards policy changes to achieve Illinois' long-term vision?
- What are the lessons learned from COVID-19 that can be leveraged to promote sustainability as we move forward?

## 12:25 Share and Discuss (15 min)

### Facilitators:

- Phyllis Glink, Early Learning Council Co-chair
- Jesse Ruiz, Early Learning Council Co-chair

## 12:40 Funding Commission Report Status Update (10 min)

### Presenter/Facilitator:

- Theresa Hawley, First Assistant Deputy Governor for Education (Governor's Office)

## 12:50 Public Comments & Announcements

## 1:00 Closing Comments and Adjourn

### Next Meeting:

Monday, June 22, 2021

11:00am – 1:00pm (subject to change)

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