

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

June 21, 2021, 11:00 AM-1:30 PM

Join via [Webex](#) | Meeting Number: 177 367 9483 | Meeting Password: 3UXcjPGi3M8

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

Agenda

11:00 Welcome, Introductions & Icebreaker Activity

For the introduction activity, please prepare to state your:

- Name
- Job Title
- Organizational Affiliation
- Icebreaker Question: What was your favorite game to play as a child?

11:30 History of State Advisory Councils (20 min)

Presenter/Facilitator:

- Ngozi Lawal, Project Director, Prenatal to Three Initiative at the Center for the Study of Social Policy

11:50 Grounding: Member Roles & Expectations (30 min)

Presenters/Facilitators:

- Phyllis Glink, Early Learning Council Co-chair
- Jesse Ruiz, Early Learning Council Co-chair
- Jamilah R. Jor'dan, Executive Director, GOECD

In Materials:

- [Illinois Early Learning Council Act \(P.A. 93-380\)](#)
- DRAFT - Illinois Early Learning Council Governing Principles
- [Early Learning Council Racial Equity One-Pager](#) (Definition, Priorities, Race Forward Race Equity Impact Qs)
- [Chicago United for Equity \(CUE\) Racial Equity Analysis Report for the Illinois Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Care and Education Funding](#)
- [Illinois Early Learning Council Annual Report \(2020\)](#)

12:20 Break (10 min)

Please stay logged in to the Webex, remain on mute, and turn off your camera during the break.

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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12:30 Open Meetings Act (OMA) (10 min)

Presenter/Facilitator:

- Cynthia Flores, Associate General Counsel, Office of the Governor

In Materials:

- [5 ILCS 120/ Open Meetings Act](#)

12:40 Federally Funded Initiatives & ELC Strategic Focus Areas (20 min)

Presenter/Facilitator:

- Jamilah R. Jor'dan, Executive Director, GOECD

In Materials:

- Proposed ELC Strategic Focus Areas

1:00 House Bill 2878 (20 min)

Presenter/Facilitator:

- Senator Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas

In Materials:

- [House Bill 2878](#)

1:20 Public Comments & Announcements

1:30 Closing Comments and Adjourn

Next Meeting:

Monday, November 15, 2021
11:00am – 1:00pm (subject to change)

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