

**Illinois Early Learning Council**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

**October 5th, 2015 11am to 4pm**

Chicago: Goldberg Kohn LTD. 55 East Monroe, Suite 3300

Springfield: ISBE Video-conference Room (100 N. 1st St.)

Call: 1-888-494-4032 Access code: 6113045703

Meeting Minutes

Chicago: Karen Berman, Jeanna Capito, George Davis, Gaylord Gieseke, Phyllis Glink, Diane Grisby-Jackson, Dan Harris, Theresa Hawley, Janet Maruna, Gail Nourse, Andrea Palmer, Sylvia Puente, Beth Purvis, Elliot Regenstein, Vanessa Rich, Sara Slaughter, Teri Talan, Kathy Villano, Maria Whelan, Karen Yarbrough, Cindy Zumwalt

Springfield: Sara Jimenez, Barb Payne

Phone: Pam Althoff, Teresa Kelly, Diana Rauner, Josie Yanguas

I. Welcome

- a. Council Co-Chair Beth Purvis welcomed the Executive Committee members to this meeting and also thanked Goldberg Kohn LTD for allowing us to use their space for the meeting. The minutes of the last ELC Exec meeting were approved.

II. Discussion on Direction of Major Pieces of Work Underway

- a. Director of the OECD, Theresa Hawley began the conversation on funding for Early Childhood. According to Hawley, the childcare system has a lot of impacts but not in a way that is aligned with our state goal because of budget issues and that there are new federal mandates that require the council's focus. Various members of the council agreed with Hawley that the context that the state currently is in is different from the context of when the council first created its goals. A question that was brought up by this statement is knowing that the context is different, what needs to happen?

Several council members agreed but there didn't seem to be a consensus of what perspective to take. Council Co-chair Phyllis Glink reminded the council that the vision for the state is for every child to enter kindergarten safe, healthy, ready to succeed, and eager to learn. Council Co-chair Glink stated that we need to look for high level strategy ideas. Council Co-chair Purvis added that the job of the council is to set the context for infrastructure for programs to help families and that the council needs to focus on what state government can do to set up the systems for success for the programs to work for these families.

III. Community Systems Development Plan Update:

- a. Director Hawley guided the conversation by saying that at some point the council has to build things at the local community level but that we haven't built the capacity for that yet. The council agreed that there needs to be a structure of support on the local level but that there were many issues to consider such as who these local leaders should be, the amount of authority they have especially on financial decisions, and how to make this a sustainable decision and to get agency buy-in. There was a motion to look further into making a localized structure. All were in favor except for Diane Grisby-Jackson, Barb Payne, Cindy Zumwalt, and Vanessa Rich who abstained.

IV. ECBG FY17 Planning Discussion

- a. Reyna Hernandez and Karen Berman gave a recap and update on where the planning for ECBG FY17 is. They explained that the goal was to move towards an enhanced and coordinated model of service delivery to meet the needs of the children most-at-risk to be healthy and ready to learn at kindergarten level and continue on a trajectory toward college and career readiness. Currently, a key decision point includes delaying the ECBG 5 year re-competition, the pros being that it would provide more time for consideration, allows more time for capacity building, and commits funding in a way that promotes ELC priorities. The cons to this would be that delaying re-competition decreases stability for programs and increases administrative burden. Hernandez and Berman suggested that doing a close competition with current grantees to apply to enhance slots but things that are not related to slots should stay open.

V. CCDBG CCDF Changes to Come Into Compliance with New Federal Mandates

Committee member Gail Nourse talked about the Program, Implementation, and Compliance Committee (PICC), an advisory committee to the Department of Human Services (DHS). The committee is working on a plan that is due to the Feds by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Some questions that need to be answered such as should there be requirements for check-ins and should there be any differences for children attending gold or silver programs. Nourse also pointed out that the council needs to figure out a process for monitoring the license exempt non-relative daycares.

VI. Illinois Mental Health Plan

Council Co-chair Glink brought up findings that pointed to a demand for mental health in the early childhood systems which hopefully will be presented in full at the next ELC meeting. Currently, an anonymous funder is starting with a survey to mental health counselors to try and determine what the components for early mental health are.

VII. GVF Planning Process

Consultant Elizabeth Cole talked about the environmental factors at play with the Grand Victoria Fund including funding crisis, the political environment, legislative mandates and efforts required to change them, the growing impact, opportunities and challenges of cultural diversity, and the amount of time left to work on federal initiatives. Cole also talked about the one-on-one interviews she had with members of council and explained that there was an overall sense of hopelessness and lost from many of the people interviewed. She proposed that the council think about what is expected of a member

of the council, where are we going with the larger council and what are we trying to accomplish with it, and how a message should be developed to share with others.

VIII. Set Agenda for Next Full Council Meeting

Council Co-chair Glink and Purvis shared that the date for the upcoming Full Early Learning Council would need to be moved to another day in November and that an email would be sent out about the change in day.

IX. Committee Updates

- a. Data, Research, and Evaluation: The committee developed a research agenda which will be evolving continuously. The DRE committee would like to talk about this research in the future and how the committee will be managing it.
- b. Systems, Integrations, and Alignment: The committee is looking at data that had been collected for the last 20 years from almost every division and they are moving forward on implementing the health recommendations for early childhood.
- c. Home Visiting Task Force: The committee currently has participation from Healthy Families and they have permission to tweak the current model they're working on.
- d. Program Standards and Quality: The committee is looking at teacher preparation grants and how those small grants are helping.

X. Meeting adjourned.