

Capital/Infrastructure Meeting:  
1/24/13

Samir Tanna, Illinois Action for Children  
Sam Aigner-Treworgy  
Kathy Vallano,  
Kim Collins,  
Bernard C. IECAM  
Mario Garcia, Onward Neighborhood HOuse  
Lori Loungville, (phone)  
Cindy Wall, DHS  
Missy Brown, \_ Lutheran College (phone)  
Angela Farwig, OPF  
Dan Harris, DHS (phone)  
Teri, (phone)  
Kate Maher, IFF (phone)  
Martin Torres, Latino Policy Forum  
Mark McHugh, One Hope United

Mark: General introductions, and then approval of the minutes:

Mark: Debrief from Governor's announcement:

Kim: CDB has been in contact w those funded. Webinar to be held around next steps.

Sam – City update – CPS will have the RFP out soon. Working with DCFS on final draft of the RFP to be released. Hoping to have it out by June 30. (Get more information on the timeline, lots of details still in the air.)  
4.5 will be subgranted.  
Different eligibility requirements, want to parallel state process.

Mark: Any conversation around connecting capital effort with operating funds. Ready to Learn is taking place at the same time. Want to award grants to folks for buildings who have the fiscal capacity to get that done.

Sam: Conversations are taking place, but decisions haven't been made at this point. They are hoping to make significant progress by the end of the fiscal year.

webinar or a bidder's conference would be part of the process. Cps is working with their facilities folks. Those conversations are just beginning.

Hoping to get feedback from the community. What range will they be looking for.

Angela: I'm in contact with IFF Is webinar or bidder's conference better?

Mark: What's next? Demand was much greater than the amount of resources available. What kind of discussion has happened on this.

Kim: Gov. is putting together his budget. This was a big priority. He's looking to go and visit them. He included \$50 m in the FY13 capital budget for additional construction grants, but that didn't move forward.

Kathy: Were all the projects really fundable?

Kim: No, not all were qualified.

Kathy: How many were viable.

Kim: A 'huge' majority were fundable. If we get another opportunity to administer this program, there will be lots of questions to answer. How do you configure the grants? If you take two \$5 projects, that's a huge chunk of your \$45. Also, quality wasn't a part of the first RFA. If we get another round, standing in the QRIS system will likely be a part of the judgement. We're in a different world now. It should be in moving forward.

Mark: Let's have the (full) committee vote on asking governor to keep pushing on capital. Have ELC vote on it and go on the record asking gov. to support another capital investment & maintain stable operations.

Kim: All current projects getting CCAP, some PFA. All are not for profit. None are for profit..

Martin: What type of data will the committee have access to for advocacy purposes moving forward.

Kim: We're still working on that.

Mark: Introduces verbal proposal for the committee to consider re: new capital and operating money.

Whereas there was overwhelming response to the ECCP, and there was a positive process of the first \$45 million in projects to be funded to schools and nonprofits and whereas there's still a great need as evidenced by the applications that were submitted, the ELC recommends that the state to continue the momentum, and propose another round of funding and that operating funding be included moving forward."

Committee votes unanimously in favor. Motion approved.

\*The last 20 minutes of the meeting were focused on Transportation.

Martin – our goal is to reduce transportation barriers so that more at risk, hard to reach children and families are able to participate in early learning programs.

When we added transportation to the plate of this subcommittee, Mark and I knew that we needed leadership from folks who have been working throughout the state to close the transportation gap for young children in one capacity or another. We've added some depth to the subcommittee, but we are going to need to continue seeking individuals with transportation expertise to help inform our work moving forward.

In the meantime, the next step for this segment of the subcommittee's work plan is to develop a needs assessment of transportation strengths and weaknesses across the state. We have to take stock of the current landscape and identify what the greatest transportation needs are in Illinois early childhood systems. Armed with this information, we can begin to develop recommendations to reduce transportation barriers that limit children's ability to participate in early learning programs.

At this stage, we'd like to get your input on what should be included in the transportation needs assessment.

Lori – no public transportation in many places, especially very rural areas. It's critical to inventory all components of the early learning system. Gather information in the needs assessment about the ability to maintain enrollment and info re: high need kids they are serving.

Head start has their own buses. When they do, they can attract and retain children. Child care center has a bus, goes into 3 counties (didn't catch where). It's probably the reason they maintain enrollment. They struggle in other manners. Need to capture enrollment to capture the difference in enrollment. Baseline information to show the value-add.

Sam – attendance information is critical. While enrollment is great, if they are not showing up, it's tough to maintain services

Kathy – even with public transportation, if enclaves where families live don't have access to that transportation, they can't get there.

There are multiple layers. Families access to transportation, before you even think (hard to reach/hard to enroll).

It would be great to recruit someone for the committee who knows about the state's funding of system of transportation. Large (private?) transportation firm - first student – invite them to see about how they feel about this issue. Find out how they negotiate with school districts.

Mario- Even in Chicago, which has a large public transportation system, congestion patterns can be a barrier.

Kathy – We should check in with homeless liaisons throughout the state – lots of themes and variations on how homeless children are transported to and from programs.

Mario –How does afterschool programming hook into this issue from a transportation perspective?

Lori – parent and family aspect – what types of transportation can they access? Break apart parents from their kids and include both in the needs assessment.

Sam – Including the element of other resources. How are people using transportation to access healthcare, ect. The Committee should also set goals.  
Kathy – identify specific goals that are different than Tom's hard to reach committee and find places where our work can support each other's

Bernard – We are doing a needs assessment at IECAM, they have some elements of data. If someone's in the health system you can track them, but for those who aren't in the system you don't know who's out there. What's the solution?

Kathy – the '09 census has data on families with cars, etc.

Mark – We should get some new perspective from head start nationally. What are Head Start's their lessons learned on this subject? Every state funds transportation differently. Café programs are specific to Illinois.

Martin – Next steps. Next meeting is on Feb. 20 from 11-noon. We'll be mainly focused on transportation. We may contact some of you between now and then to do an inventory of what knowledge base you have for us to tap from.