

Illinois Early Learning Council

March 28th, 2016, 11am-2pm

Room 418, Roosevelt University

435 S. Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL

Conference Line: 888-494-4032, Access code: 6113045703#

Minutes

Roosevelt: Jim Applegate, Karen Berman, Gaylord Gieseke, Phyllis Glink, Tasha Greene, Dan Harris, Gloria Harris, Tom Layman, Andrea Palmer, Sylvia Puente, Claudia Quigg, Elliott Regenstein, Cynthia Tate, Stephen Vick, Judith Walker, Kelley Washington, Josie Yanguas, Cindy Zumwalt

Phone: Jeff Aranawski and Barb Payne

I. Welcome

Co-chair Phyllis Glink welcomed the council and thanked Roosevelt University for once again opening up their space to the Council.

II. Children's Cabinet and Budget Update

Co-chair Beth Purvis shared, once again, that there was no update on the budget.

Amberly Tenney, the main staffer for the Governor's Cabinet of Children and Youth gave an update on it. She explained that the Cabinet was established by Governor Rauner on February 18th, 2016 to increase accountability and efficiency throughout the state's agencies in achieving four goals for every child in the state: to be healthy, to be safe, to be well-educated, and to be self-sufficient.

In regards to the Children's Cabinet, the role of the Early Learning Council is to funnel information from external partners to the Cabinet so that they can make informed decisions. Tenney reiterated that the goal of the Children's Cabinet was to not replace the Early Learning Council or the P-20 Council but to take the information and work done by both councils to set goals and accountability measures for the state.

III. Updates

a. Illinois School Board of Education

Council members Reyna Hernandez and Cindy Zumwalt shared that since ISBE is impacted by the state budget, certain projects have not been funded.

They explained that ISBE is working to get more information on KIDS initiatives. Some districts have expressed that they already have a comprehensive system while others say that it is really helpful.

b. City of Chicago

Samantha Aigner-Treworgy from the City of Chicago said that they are seeking a new Children's Services Leader. She also shared that there are three priority areas of the mayor's plan for early childhood: administration alignment; enrollment; and development of a plan for universal preschool

c. Department of Human Services

Barb Payne from DHS shared that the childcare development funds state plans were submitted on time and will be working on the implementation plan. Payne also said that there would be a new Head Start state collaborative director starting soon on April 1st.

d. Head Start

A representative of Head Start shared that the pre-k expansion is coming to our state. There are lots of grant writing taking place within the next few months.

IV. Early Childhood Block Grant Re-Competition

Reyna Hernandez and Cindy Zumwalt gave an update on ECBG re-competition. They shared that in April they are looking to do an interactive webinar to help guide through the re-competition process. They have already started to guide FY18 planning however, the state is going under a new grant system and the block grant may look very different for reasons outside of our control.

Zumwalt shared that plans for services at the beginning of the year need to be made now. If additional funding is made, then restoration will be made to FY12 levels of Pre-School for All

V. Break

VI. Office of Early Childhood Development Update

Executive Director Kelley Washington shared that OECD is making sure that they're in full alignment with the Children's Cabinet. OECD is also having conversations with key partners in regards to building a sustained system. Washington also shared that they are working MEICV grant, Race to the Top/Early Learning Challenge, and the Preschool Expansion Grant.

VII. Mental Health Action Plan

Co-chair Phyllis Glink and members from the Irving Harris Foundation about the Mental Health Plan. What motivated a mental health action plan was that the state had received a number of federal initiatives that was picked up by the state where there was recognition that the state really needed to strengthen the social emotional aspect of its children and families.

Five goals for the plan included program access and availability; workforce development; funding and fiancé; public awareness and education; and system governance and implementation.

At the time of the meeting, they were at the end of phase 1 with anticipation of two more phases of work. By the end of phase 2 they are hoping that they will have already mapped out how to do this throughout the state.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Systems, Integration, and Alignment

Special Education subcommittee has been working on developing the procedures for identifying and supporting the children who have need of these services. They are also working with the Data, Research, and Evaluation committee and IECAM to get better unduplicated data.

b. All Families Served

There is a new subcommittee on parent engagement with the first meeting occurring on March 29th.

c. Program, Standards, and Quality

The committee's last meeting was in January with the next meeting on May 9th.

d. Data, Research, and Evaluation

DRE is in the process of becoming a subcommittee and their research agenda has been posted on the OECD website.

e. Home Visiting Task Force

The committee will be using a mental health consultation with their programs. The committee also shared that home visitors are concerned about their safety going into certain areas and want to look at safety plans for home visitors to consider.