

Illinois Early Learning Council

February 24, 2020, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Roosevelt University, Wabash Building Room 418, 425 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60605

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

In attendance:

In person:

Cindy Bardeleben, Karen Berman, Stephanie Bernoteit, Tim Carpenter, Shauna Ejeh, Donna Emmons, Karen Freel, Dana Garner, Gaylord Gieseke, Cornelia Grumman, Dan Harris, Jamilah R. Jor'dan, Cathy Mannen, Janice Moenster, Lauri Morrison-Frichtl, Bela Mote, Theresa Nihill, Tracy Occomy-Crowder, Laura Phelan, Diana Rauner, Elliot Regenstein, Jesse Ruiz, Linda Saterfield, Brynn Seibert, Sara Slaughter, Teri Talan, Yolanda Williams, Josie Yanguas

By phone:

Kristy Doan, Chelsea Guillen, Vicki Hodges, Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Maria Whelan

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions – Phyllis Glink and Jesse Ruiz (15 min)

Phyllis Glink welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave thanks to Roosevelt for their ongoing partnership. Phyllis asked Early Learning Council (ELC) members in the room to introduce themselves, followed by ELC members on the phone. She then asked members of the public on the phone to introduce themselves and then members of the public in the room. Jesse Ruiz requested a motion be made to approve the ELC meeting minutes from November 18, 2019. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved as written. Phyllis Glink announced that Dr. Cynthia Tate, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD), has taken a new position with the national BUILD Initiative. Phyllis acknowledged the great work Cynthia did with the State, both prior and during her time at GOECD. Phyllis thanked Cynthia for her service to GOECD and to the State of Illinois and read aloud a letter Cynthia wrote to the ELC. It was asked that the minutes reflect the well-deserved applause for Cynthia. Jesse seconded Phyllis' thank you for Cynthia's service and announced that Dr. Jamilah R. Jor'dan will be serving as GOECD's Acting Executive Director for the unforeseeable future. Dr. Jamilah R. Jor'dan acknowledged Cynthia for her wisdom, passion, and leadership and thanked Jesse for the opportunity to serve in the position. She also acknowledged the GOECD staff.

2. Family Connects – Arden Handler, Nick Wechsler, and Diana Rauner (30 min)

Phyllis Glink introduced the presenters for, "The Role of Universal Newborn Supports in Promoting Women's Health in the Postpartum Period, Early Learning and Health, and Community Well-Being". Diana Rauner noted that the Home Visiting Task Force (HVTF) has been conducting Universal Newborn Supports pilots in Illinois since 2017, in Chicago since 2019, and that the work being presented will continue as part of Goal #2 in the PDG B-5 Strategic Plan. Nick Wechsler noted the charge of the HVTF's Universal Newborn Supports Subcommittee (UNSS) is to offer a single home visit by a nurse to every family after they leave the hospital. This visit does not duplicate home visiting or early care and education services; it adds to them. Nick noted that in the Family Connects Model the nurse can connect families to other services throughout the State, and the pilots between 2017-2019 demonstrated promising findings. Arden Handler then presented on the role of home visiting in support women's health in the postpartum period. Arden reviewed the outcomes of the Illinois Family Connects pilot, noting the model reduces stigma (thereby reaching more families) because it's universal. Additionally, because nurses are viewed as having the authority to help the infants and support mothers, when they conduct an initial assessment during the one-time visit, they can refer the family to additional services if needed. Diana Rauner closed by noting that next steps are underway in the HVTF, HVTF Sustainability, and UNSS subcommittees of the ELC. The PN3 vision is to add ten additional Family Connects programs, and cost modeling for home visiting has been included in the work of the Governor's Early Childhood Funding Commission.

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3. **Governor’s Early Childhood Priorities** – Theresa Hawley (30 minutes)

Theresa Hawley gave a presentation on the Governor’s Early Childhood Priorities, noting that they were built upon the Strategic Visioning and Planning meeting held by the ELC on June 10, 2019 and are aligned with the efforts of the PDG B-5 grant and the PDG B-5 Strategic Plan. Noted themes included: restoring and expanding access to high-quality early care and education; refining and redefining standards, funding streams, and infrastructure supports; and growing a highly qualified early care and education workforce. Jesse Ruiz noted that in the Governor’s proposed budget includes a \$50 million increase for ECBG, \$100 million increase for CCAP, \$7 million increase for EI, and allocates an additional \$4.25 million to home visiting.

4. **Governor’s Early Childhood Funding Commission** – Theresa Hawley (15 minutes)

Theresa Hawley then presented on the Governor’s Early Childhood Funding Commission, also known as the Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding. “The Commission shall study and make recommendations to establish funding goals and funding mechanisms to provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care services for all children birth to age five and advise the Governor in planning and implementing these recommendations.” The Management and Oversight Working Group focuses on who oversees and distributes the funding; the Funding Mechanisms Working Group focuses on how the money is allocated; the Funding Adequacy Working Group focuses on how much funding is needed to reach our desired outcomes; and the Inclusion Working Group focuses on equity for children with special needs. Theresa noted the Commission is committed to stakeholder engagement, and all are invited to participate.

5. **Break** (20 minutes)

Phyllis announced a 20-minute break, noting the time to return.

6. **PDG B-5 Renewal Announcement** – Artiya Nash (5 minutes)

Phyllis Glink noted the Governor’s priorities, and the work of the Commission, the PDG B-5, and the PN3 are all connected. The ELC, with support of GOECD and the Governor’s Office, is responsible for making sure the work moves forward. Phyllis introduced Artiya Nash, GOECD’s PDG B-5 Project Director. Artiya noted that Illinois was awarded \$13,414,500 for the PDG B-5 Renewal Grant work. She reiterated that the 34 projects proposed under this Renewal grant connects to all the work Theresa presented, as well as to the work undertaken during the PDG B-5 planning year.

7. **PN3 Initiative** – Karen Berman (10 minutes)

Karen Berman presented on the Prenatal to 3 policy agenda for all of Illinois, noting the information is being housed on the GOECD website. She noted that all ELC members received an invitation to a webinar to finalize a version of the agenda. PN3 has reached the end of the planning phase and will quickly move to implementation to achieve its goals by 2025. The next step is to build an implementation coalition; they are currently seeking philanthropic support for the work. Phyllis thanked Karen for her leadership and work to move this agenda forward.

8. **Committee Reports** (45 Min)

○ Access Committee – Maria Whelan (10 minutes)

Maria Whelan reported the All Families Served Subcommittee is working on approaches to improve alignment between DCFS and child welfare involved families in the early childhood community. Senator Morrison filed a resolution to improve alignment. The plan is to use the Access Committee for implementation if the resolution is passed. The Family Engagement Implementation Subcommittee is planning for authentic, strength-based family engagement. PDG B-5 funding has boosted supports for the identification of families to inform policy decisions. The committees are working with GOECD on the frameworks and work plans. The Access Committee will meet again in March. Phyllis Glink noted the Child Care Advisory Council meeting scheduled for tomorrow has been cancelled due to inclement weather.

○ Home Visiting Task Force – Gaylord Gieseke and Diana Rauner (5 minutes)

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Gaylord Gieseke reported the HVTF is downsizing its committee structure. Ireta Gasner and Mike Shaver will co-chair the Sustainability Subcommittee. UNSS will continue to do its work, and Deb Daro will continue to chair with Dr. Gina Lowell from Rush Medical Center. Gaylord reported the Cook County jail pilot was presented at the request of Lt. Governor Stratton at the McCormick Foundation Executive Fellows Program/intensive session to tie early childhood to criminal justice reform. Additionally, the expanded child welfare pilot has come to an end, and HVTF is hoping for the passage of House Resolution 4768 in US Congress which would increase funding for home visiting.

- Integration & Alignment Committee – Shauna Egeh and Karen Berman (10 minutes)

Shauna Egeh reported the IAC Committee is working to advance the mixed delivery system recommendations, and continues to inform and analyze how the State’s early childhood funding is designed and allocated to meet quality improvement and access to services across the State, with particular attention to the families who are most in need of services. Shauna also reported that IAC’s Health Subcommittee is partnering with MCOs to identify how partnerships with early childhood program can support enrollment in high-quality early child care. The Inclusion Subcommittee is supporting advancement of the ELC approved recommendation to improve the quality and supply of inclusive child care for children with disabilities. The DRE Subcommittee is supporting the needs of GOECD and AIR on the PDG B-5. Grace Araya, from Illinois Action for Children, has been appointed as co-chair of the CSD Subcommittee.

- Quality Committee – Dan Harris and Teri Talan (10 minutes)

Teri Talan presented on the PDG B-5 Child Care Pilot to test revised ExceleRate standards. This is an extension of the work recently done by the ExceleRate Subcommittee; now there is an opportunity to test the standard revisions under the PDG B-5. Teri noted the pilot programs have the opportunity to benefit. An effective system will fund staffing first, then expect quality (not vice-versa w/ rate add-ons).

- ELC Membership Ad Hoc Committee – Phyllis Glink (10 minutes)

Phyllis Glink noted the ELC Bylaws are under final review by the Membership/Governance ad hoc. She reminded everyone of the survey that went out with recommendations for new members. A final list will be sent to the Governor’s Office for consideration for official appointment. Phyllis noted that all “members” are currently serving without official appointments or term limits. The ad hoc committee is working to increase diversity, develop a pipeline for leadership, and reduce the total members to 65. Additional information will be shared when available.

9. Announcements & Public Comments (10 min)

Mary Ottinot made a public comment about her struggle to get support in Chicago. Though it is part of the State, the City seems to function as an independent entity. Parents in Chicago are struggling to be heard and are hoping for change. Children with disabilities, in particular, need more support. Jesse Ruiz told Mary that her voice was heard, and they are working on this issue in the JRTC. Jennifer Alexander noted the City is putting systems in place and looks forward to the ongoing collaboration. Cristina Pacione-Zayas reminded Executive Committee members to complete the racial equity survey distributed last week. Josie Yanguas noted the ISBE Board is engaging in Strategic Planning and the ELC should engage in the process. Cornelia Grumman seconded the importance of ELC members responding to articulate how ISBE’s strategic areas apply to early learning. Denise Dell Isola reminded all to continue to encourage individuals to complete the census.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting:

Monday, June 22, 2020

11:00am - 2:00pm

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