

Illinois Early Learning Council
November 18, 2019, 11am-2pm

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, John Borrero, Tim Carpenter, Christi Chadwick, Dana Garner (for Judith Walker Kendrick), Phyllis Glink, Gaylord Gieseke, Cornelia Grumman, Dan Harris, Nakisha Hobbs, Jamilah R. Jor'dan, Cathy Mannen, Janice Moenster, Bela Mote, Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Elliot Regenstein, Jesse Ruiz, Sara Slaughter, Luz Maria Solis, Teri Talan, Cynthia Tate, Maria Whelan, Yolanda Williams, Josie Yanguas

By phone: Barbara Bowman, Marcus Brown (for Jennifer Foster), Cerathel Burnett, Kristy Doan, Donna Emmons, Theresa Nihill, Lauri Morrison-Frichtl

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 June 27, 2019. Sara Slaughter made motion to approve the minutes. Maria Whelan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written. Jesse acknowledged that Illinois recently submitted an application for the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5) Renewal, a very exciting opportunity for our state.

2. PDG B-5 Initial and Renewal – Artiya Nash and Dr. Cynthia Tate (25 min)

Artiya Nash gave an overview of the Initial PDG B-5 grant GOECD has been leading (in partnership with ISBE as the fiscal agent) since the start of 2019. Artiya reviewed a timeline of the Initial PDG B-5 grant and the purposes of PDG B-5 initiative, and walked through the structure of the grant, including: Activity One: Needs Assessment; Activity Two: Strategic Plan; Activity Three: Maximizing Parental Choice & Knowledge; Activity Four: Sharing Best Practices; Activity Five: Improving Overall Quality. Cynthia Tate then walked through the dates for Illinois' no-cost extension for the Initial PDG B-5 grant, reviewed the PDG B-5 Renewal grant structure, and gave an overview of all new activities written for in the PDG B-5 Renewal, which was submitted by GOECD on November 4, 2019.

3. Prenatal to Three Initiative (PN3) – Karen Berman and Teresa Ramos (25 minutes)

Karen Berman presented on the Pritzker's Children's Initiative (PCI) prenatal-to-three (PN3) Initiative in Illinois. The goal is to move the needed on the number of families receiving services; states are asked to take their baseline and push to an additional 25% of low-income infants and toddlers receiving services by 2023 and to 50% by 2025. Illinois is being supported by local funders (McCormick, Harris, and Stone Foundations) to do this work; the initiative launched in August and hopes to wrap in January 2020. There is still time for input, so Karen asked that anyone interested reach out (advocacy@theounce.org) if they have not yet been engaged. There is also information and upcoming meeting dates on the GOECD website (<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/PN3.aspx>). Teresa Ramos then presented on the work Illinois Action for Children's is doing to utilize the PN3 coalition as an advocacy group once the PN3 agenda is finalized. A quick survey was conducted to measure the communications and

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organizing capacity across the coalition; more information will be forthcoming. For now, the hope is to connect people via social media so the agenda has broad reach once it launches.

4. **Break** (20 min)

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

5. **B-3 Continuity Project** – Dr. Lisa Hood (30 min)

Dr. Lisa Hood presented on the Illinois Birth-to-Third Grade (B-3) Continuity Project, an effort that began in 2015 with Preschool Development Grant – Expansion funding and whose mission is to strengthen Preschool Expansion communities' ability to develop a high-quality, intentionally designed education system from birth-to-third grade. She discussed the vision of a seamless learning continuum from birth beyond college, the B-3 project supports, eight strategies and accomplishments, the PK-3 Teach Lead Grow website, resources for P-12 principal preparation, and recommendations for next steps given that funding for the Project ends at the end of 2019.

6. **State Department Updates** (20 min)

- DHS – Nakisha Hobbs (10 min)

Jesse Ruiz introduced Nakisha Hobbs and thanked her for her service, as this will be her last meeting of the ELC before leaving DHS. Nakisha Hobbs then presented on several CCAP-related topics, including: the Legislative memo outlining DHS's priorities for this fiscal year, new policies, the outreach/marketing initiative, and listening sessions/online surveys. Nakisha also discussed child care reimbursement rates and the collaboration between DHS, ISBE, IHSA, GOECD and the city of Chicago to support recommendations made by the ELC's Mixed Delivery System Ad Hoc Committee.

- ISBE – Kristy Doan (10 min)

Kristy Doan presented on the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), acknowledging that quality awards were given to all currently funded grantees, in addition to multiple new programs. ISBE will be holding an informational webinar this Friday that will be recorded and posted on the website; they will also be holding in-person sessions for new programs in December. In her update on the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS), Kristy noted that the last districts are entering their data this week. The KIDS Summit will take place on December 12th and 13th; registration is currently full.

7. **Committee Reports** (25 Min)

- Access Committee – Maria Whelan (5 minutes)

Phyllis Glink introduced Maria Whelan and acknowledged George Davis, the Access Committee's co-chair who recently retired, for his years of dedication and service. Maria made a motion to pass a resolution that the ELC put together a thank you note (signed by the co-chairs) acknowledging George for his work. The motion carried unanimously. Maria then announced that Lilian Matsuda is new to Illinois Action for Children and is staffing the Access Committee and its subcommittees.

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

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Gaylord Gieseke reported that the Home Visiting Task Force (HVTF) has reevaluated their committee structure and plans to make changes. Many pilot projects are concluding (foster care project, Cook County jail pilot, home visiting for homeless families); they hope that the work will be taken on across the state. The Universal Newborn Support workgroup is rolling out its Family Connects effort in Chicago and is assisting Family Connects Illinois with the addition of new communities statewide and identifying funding sources to buildout universal newborn touch.

- Integration & Alignment Committee – Shauna Egeh and Karen Berman (5 minutes)

Karen Berman noted that the full IAC Committee has been focusing on ECBG in partnership with ISBE and the Governor's Office to address slot gaps B-5 and why programs are not applying. The Health Subcommittee has been focusing on connections with Managed Care Programs (MCOs) to help outcomes for children. The Inclusion Subcommittee is meeting on 11/21/2019; they are trying to move needle on children 3-5 with IEPs being supported in CBOs. The Community Systems Development Subcommittee is working on statewide infrastructure for local collaborations. The Data, Research, and Evaluation Subcommittee has been focusing on PDG B-5 cost modeling, needs assessment, and strategic plan.

- Quality Committee – Dan Harris and Teri Talan (5 minutes)

Teri Talan reported that the Quality Committee has a meeting on December 17th. The ExceleRate Subcommittee meets monthly, is considering revisions to the ExceleRate QRIS standards, and is working closely with the Governor's Office on how to pilot recommendations, possibly under the PDG B-5 Renewal grant.

- ELC Membership Ad Hoc – Phyllis Glink (5 minutes)

Phyllis Glink reminded everyone about the work of the Membership ad hoc committee. They group has met five times to date and hopes to meet again in January to wrap up. There are two tracks of work: 1) the development of governance docs that reflect the vision of administration and help to define the responsibility of members, and 2) updates to full ELC membership. Terms have expired, and the administration would like the size of body to decrease. We hope to share out again in February.

8. Announcements & Public Comments (10 min)

A mother of three disabled children in CPS made a public comment about issues her family is facing due to the defunding of child care centers. She expressed concerns with universal pre-k and invited everyone to a Town Hall meeting at Antioch Community Church on 11/19/2019. Phyllis Glink gave an end-of-year thank you to the ELC committees and asked all to continue to roll up their sleeves and keep working in the new year. Cristina Pacione-Zayas mentioned that Risk and Reach now has hard copies of the fiscal scan. A webinar will be forthcoming.

9. Adjourn

Jesse Ruiz thanked everyone for coming today and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting:
Monday, February 24, 2020
11:00am-2:00pm

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