

Illinois Early Learning Council
November 19, 2018, 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: Emily Bastedo, Karen Berman, John Borrero, Lynn Burgett, Shauna Ejeh, Donna Emmons, Gaylord Gieseke, Cornelia Grumman, Dan Harris, Gloria Harris, Nakisha Hobbs, Carisa Hurley, Madelyn James (for Tasha Green Cruzat), Dr. Kimberly Mann, Cathy Mannen, Janice Moenster, Bela Mote, Donna Nylander, Tracey Ocomy-Crowder, Sylvia Puente, Diana Rauner, Elliott Regenstein, Sara Slaughter, Luz Marie Solis, Dr. Cynthia Tate, Stephen Vick, Kathy Villano, Judith Walker-Kendrick, Maria Whelan, and Julia Zhu.

Phone: Barbara Bowman, Tim Carpenter, Chelsea Guillen, Vicki Hodges, Jamilah Jor'dan, Lauri Morrison-Frichtl, Theresa Nihill, Teri Talan, and Karen Sheridan Turner.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Updates – Emily Bastedo and Phyllis Glink (15 min)

Phyllis Glink welcomed everyone to Roosevelt University. She thanked everyone for coming and thanked Roosevelt for their continued partnership. Council members at the table introduced themselves, then Council members on the phone, then non-members on the phone, and finally non-members in the room. Emily Bastedo asked for a motion for the approval of the June 2018 minutes. The motion passed. Phyllis Glink acknowledged that the Rauner administration is working with Pritzker administration on a smooth transition. She thanked Emily Bastedo (who will soon be leaving her position and will no longer serve as Co-Chair of the ELC) for her work. Everyone gave Emily a round of applause.

2. Committee Reports (45 min)

○ **Quality Committee** – Dan Harris and Teri Talan

Dan Harris noted that the Quality Committee did not have too many updates since the last ELC meeting in February. The Committee met in July and will meet again in December. At the July meeting, there were robust discussions around the DRE priorities, the PDAC strategic plan, and child care tax credits.

○ **Access Committee** – Maria Whelan and George Davis

Maria Whelan noted that the Family Engagement Implementation (FEIS) and All Families Served (AFS) Subcommittees have been meeting. FEIS is focused on implementation strategies related to the launch of family engagement statewide initiatives. She hopes to be able to share the Subcommittee's recommendations at the next ELC meeting in February. The AFS Subcommittee put together updated recommendations around priority populations. The Access Committee is hoping to have the recommendations from the AFS Subcommittee by January 16th, the next full Access Committee meeting. Phyllis Glink reminded Council members that the FEIS plan

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was approved by ELC a year or so ago. The original decision was to lift up non-cost related recommendations first because the administration did not have resources available, given the budget impasse. Phyllis asked that the full report be shared with Council members for review.

- Integration & Alignment Committee – Shauna Ejeh and Karen Berman

Karen Berman reviewed a document outlining the preliminary learnings from the ECBG analysis. They have yet to map the funded slots out by geography; they will also be taking a high-level look at what happened with block grant funding comparing FY17 to FY19. Karen also reminded people that they were able to organize TA to prep applications for the ECBG. Current analysis shows that the majority of entities that received funding also received TA (a non-causal but noteworthy relationship). Shauna Ejeh noted that Sessy Nyman stepped down from her position at EverThrive, so Kathy Waligora stepped in as interim Co-Chair of the Health Subcommittee. The November Health meeting was cancelled; however, they are working with MCOs and IHHSs to influence the health sector. Inclusion Subcommittee: Working on a survey to send out to LEAs and CBOs this week. Trying to learn challenges and barriers to serving children with special needs. Data, Research, and Evaluation Subcommittee: Will be meeting on December 14th. The updates on the research agenda will be shared out in new year. Community Systems Development Subcommittee: Trish Rooney is serving as the new Co-Chair. The subcommittee is examining what data is accessible to communities and if they need support accessing it.

- Mixed Delivery Systems Ad Hoc - Theresa Hawley and Jamilah R. Jor'dan

Theresa Hawley explained that five years ago, an ELC blending/braiding/sustainable funding committee looked at barriers in policy to using the funding streams together. The challenges identified in that report still remain today. This new ad hoc is looking at how much penetration Illinois has in terms of layered funding outside of the city of Chicago; they are also exploring the work of other states to see what might work in Illinois.

- Home Visiting Taskforce – Gaylord Gieseke and Diana Rauner

Gaylord Gieseke reported on the Home Visiting Task Force (HVTF). Child Safety Ad Hoc Workgroup: Their aim is to develop more consistent, high-quality materials, including video, to distribute throughout the state by the spring of 2019. Penny Smith, ISBE, and Lesley Schwartz, GOECD, co-chair the workgroup. To carry forward the racial equity work being done at the Executive Committee level, the HVTF decided it would begin integrating the diversity-informed tenets starting in January. HV/EI Subcommittee: Conducted surveys of HV and EI programs to identify barriers and challenges. There have been over 500 respondents to date. They are also working on regional points of entry to try and further coordinate how the HV entry system could align with EI system. Child Welfare/HV Pilot: Chapin Hall is wrapping up the initial evaluations. Will share report and findings when they come out at next full HVTF meeting in January. 1115 Medicaid Waiver: Priorities focused on HV provided to families with children with withdraw symptoms from opioid addiction. They are seeking providers around the state might be interested in participating in pilot. Universal Newborn Support System: More communities in Illinois are inquiring about how they can participate to develop their own universal intake system. The initiative partnered with RUSH, where all mothers were screened from ACES and referred to HV programs (if they scored over 3). Home visiting for Homeless Families Project: They have increased the numbers of families served and expanded to new communities. Diana Rauner added that DPH just released maternal mortality and morbidity

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report. Representative Flowers has been conducting hearings and HV is identified as important strategy. Diana asked how and whether maternal child health should connect to ELC? It was suggested that we hold the work in the Health Subcommittee of the IAC.

3. **State Department Updates** (40 min)

- City of Chicago – Rima Malhotrar

Rima Malhotrar gave an update on the upcoming RFP from the Department of Family Support Services. Target release date is January 15th. The RFP will cover federal HS/EHS, EHS childcare partners, and ECBG (PFA, PI). They have been meeting with currently funded programs twice per month to build up to the release of the RFP. After January 15th, there will be opportunities for questions. They put together a kit with all the information about the funding sources so programs not currently funded can have the opportunity to be funded. Phyllis Glink suggested we compile a list of questions from ELC members and pass them over to the City/DFSS to review and answer. It was also agreed that we would include this topic on the December Executive Committee meeting agenda.

4. **Break** (20 min)

5. **State Department Updates – Continued** (40 min)

- DHS – Nakisha Hobbs

Nakisha Hobbs stated that last June the legislature passed HB 4965 for 12-month eligibility, which DHS has been implementing since October 1st. Families who apply for redetermination are determined for a 12-month eligibility period. The same is true for all new applications who meet CCAP requirements. DHS has also put policies in place for graduated phase-out. Families between 185% -200% FPL will remain eligible for child care and can receive services for another 12-month period. Families above 200% FPL during redetermination will get 3-month graduated phase out process. Homelessness Policy: members of the ELC and its subcommittees put forth recommendations; DHS now has a new policy in place. Homeless families are eligible for child care for 90 days, and there is no need for parents to be working. At the end of the 90 days, if families have identified an eligible activity they can be re-determined for 12-months. They have a \$1 copay during the 90-day period. If a family in CCAP program begins to experience homelessness, their copays is reduced to \$1 for the 90-day period as well. A short summary of the policy has been shared with the CCR&Rs. Health and Safety Trainings: INCCRRA verified the report of where providers are. DHS will be scheduling follow-up calls with the CCR&Rs in the next few weeks, at which time they will notify providers of their category (via completion of the trainings). The plan is not to close any provider out. NOFOs for FY2020: DHS is planning to move forward with NOFOs for HFI and AOK.

- ISBE – Carisa Hurley

Carisa Hurely reported that the KIDS data is in. ISBE wants the full report to come out sooner so districts can be informed about whether they want to administer a second round of KIDS. Report should come out in March. ISBE has been looking at KIDS coaches and what kinds of support they're giving districts. ECBG: ISBE is looking to

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see where the funding was dispersed, as well as what areas we need to target. Suspension and Expulsion Rules: ISBE's Board approved the rules and they should be released for comment on the Illinois registry soon, exact date TBD.

- GOECD – Dr. Cynthia Tate

Dr. Cynthia Tate gave an update on two Preschool Development Grants (PDG), separate grants with the same name. For the existing PDG, GOECD was notified that they have officially been given the no cost extension on the expansion grant. Dollars that have been allocated and not spent will be obligated through December 2019, which will cover grants management, fiscal oversight by ISBE, and activities under the current grant. The PDG pre-K money going directly to the 28 sub-grantees will continue, as will Pyramid Model implementation. The Racial Equity Demonstration Project will also provide training and coaching to administrations and directors. PDG B-5: Like the previous RTTT-ELC, this is a joint effort with DHHS and DOE. It's a planning grant for one year only; however, there is an opportunity to apply for continued funding for up to four years. GOECD submitted Illinois' proposal prior to the Nov. 6th deadline. Illinois is in a unique position because our state has done a lot of system building. For the needs assessment and strategic plan portions of the proposal, GOECD proposed that Illinois start with foundational data and identify areas in which we have gaps, so we can better understand what our needs are. The plan is to complete that work in 6 months. The quality improvement activities under the grant cannot begin until those two activities have been completed. Activities three and four on improving parental choice and disseminating best practices can begin any time during the year. GOECD will post our proposal to our website tomorrow.

6. **Racial Equity** – Dr. Cynthia Tate (10 minutes)

Dr. Cynthia Tate provided an update on the racial equity work of the Executive Committee. There was a retreat on July 12th, during which Executive Committee members created a definition of racial equity for the ELC and developed action and work plans that focused in four areas: Committee Structure, Quality, Access, and Family Voice. Next steps: ELC Committee Co-Chairs will report on how they will advance the work. The BUILD Team will be working with the DRE subcommittee on prioritizing goals.

7. **No Small Matter** – Laura Fallsgraff (20 minutes)

Phyllis Glink introduced Laura Fallsgraff, Director of Engagement of the Kindling Group. Laura then introduced Rachel Pikelný, Producer, and Greg Jacobs, Co-Director, of the film *No Small Matter*. A short excerpt of the film was played for the Council. Following the showing, Greg Jacobs noted that the past few months they have shared the film around the county. They've been reaching teachers and advocates but want to push further to reach people outside of early care and education who don't know about these issues. Council members suggested engaging the business community with a workforce that utilizes early care and education programs (and that don't understand the impact of a workforce that is not adequately paid), as well as the Illinois PTA with chapters across the state, and universities with early care and education courses and majors. To reach parents, Council members suggested going to religious affiliations, libraries, museums or other places that families go to host showings. It was recommended

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that the film be posted on state and daycare licensing websites. The film will soon be available in Spanish and a facilitation guide is being produced to facilitate book club-like conversations. Laura passed out a survey to the Council members and noted that a link to a digital version of the survey will be sent out after the meeting. Any additional ideas can be emailed to: hello@nosmallmatter.com.

8. **Public Charge** – Rocio Velazquez-Kato (20 minutes)

Rocio Velazquez-Kato, Immigration Policy Analyst from the Ounce of Prevention Fund, updated the Council on the proposed rule: inadmissibility on public charge grounds. She reviewed the background, benefits considered under the current policy, and public charge factors for consideration. She then outlined the proposed new definition of public charge, the proposed changes to public benefits and required factors, the impact on children's use of benefits, and proposed income considerations. Finally, she explained how the rule will move forward, shared key messages to help clarify the potential change for families (keep using social services – the change is not retroactive), and encouraged individuals and organizations to submit public comments before December 10th. Visit www.ouramericanstory.us to comment and Protectingimmigrantfamilies.org for more information.

9. **Announcements and Public Comments** (10 min)

Jill Andrews gave a public comment on behalf of the early care and education community about the staffing crisis in southern Illinois. Centers with high CCAP enrollment are unable to raise their rates. Center closings are anticipated with the retirement of center owners. How will they serve children and families in those areas? Educational requirements were lowered to help k-12 classrooms but need something similar in ECCE. They've lost 44 centers in Illinois in the past 2 years. Jill provided a packet of information and proposed solutions to the Council members and asked that they add to the of issues the ELC must address.

Carla Holtz also gave a public comment about the staffing crises. She owns two centers. She has a Silver circle of quality and wants to be Gold but can't meet the requirements. There is no incentive for employees to get education. 50% of child care workers are on income supports from state or federal governments. 82% of her budget is salary and taxes. To be high-quality it costs too much money. She'll have to shut down if the minimum wage is increased. She raised a call for help.

10. **Adjourn**

Emily Bastedo thanked Jill and Carla for their comments. She made a motion to end meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting:
Monday, February 25, 2019
11:00am-2:00pm

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