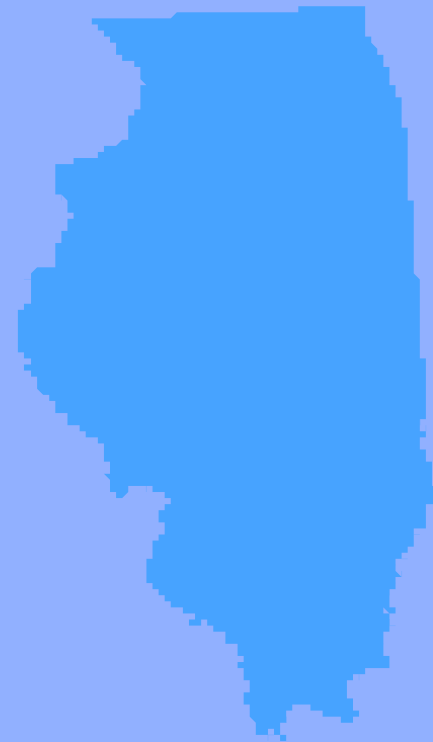




Illinois Early Learning Council

Executive Committee

October 7, 2019



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Home Visiting Task Force – Vote to approve 2019 Vision & Priorities
3. Advancing the Vision for Early Childhood in Illinois
 - Overview
 - PDG B-5 Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan
 - Racial Equity Work
4. Break
5. Advancing the Vision for Early Childhood in Illinois (continued)
 - PN3 Initiative
 - Finance Commission
 - PDG B-5 Renewal Grant
 - Role of the Early Learning Council
6. Announcements & Public Comments
7. Adjourn

HVTF: Vote to Approve 2019 Vision & Priorities

Gaylord Gieseke and Diana Rauner

Advancing the Vision for Early Childhood in Illinois: Overview

Phyllis Glink and Jesse Ruiz

Advancing the Vision for Early Childhood in Illinois: PDG B-5 Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan

Eboni Howard

ILLINOIS EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING | OCTOBER 2019

ILLINOIS PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH THROUGH FIVE (PDG B-5)

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN

Eboni C. Howard, Managing Researcher

MAKING
RESEARCH
RELEVANT

Topics to Cover Today

- Overview of AIR's PDG B-5 work.
- Overview of the three projects: Governance, Needs Assessment, and Strategic Plan.
- Overview of federal guidance for needs assessment and strategic plan.
- Provide the purposes and process for building the draft outline PDG B-5 strategic plan.
- Process input from ELC Executive Committee.

Source: Placeholder for sources and permissions (if needed).

Purpose

- Understand GOECD's PDG B-5 needs assessment and strategic planning work.
- Understand AIR's role in helping GOECD and the state of Illinois
- Understand federal funder's requirement for the PDG B-5 strategic plan
- Understand the purpose and proposed process for building the draft outline PDG B-5 strategic plan
- Understand the role of the final strategic plan document – to serve as a tool for ongoing strategic work and prioritization
- ELC members provide input on the process and next steps

AIR's PDG B-5 Projects for the Illinois Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD)

1. **Governance Strategic Planning:** best practices on state early childhood education (ECE) governance.
2. **Needs Assessment:** examining availability and quality of existing ECE programs in Illinois by reviewing existing needs assessments.
3. **Statewide Strategic Planning:** proposing a state strategic plan to support collaboration and coordination among ECE programs.



AIR's PDG B-5 Governance Project

1. Review Illinois fiscal and governance data and existing state and national reports.
2. Review other state governance models and conduct expert interviews.
3. Write final recommendations and implementation report by **November 15, 2019.**

AIR's PDG B-5 Needs Assessment Project

- Conduct a literature review of best practices for needs assessment.
- Complete analysis of existing state and federal needs assessments and other existing needs assessments by **October 31, 2019**.
- Conduct external stakeholder focus groups and analysis.
- Support updating of the Illinois Early Learning Council (ELC) research agenda.
- Develop a set of research plans.
- GOECD submits final needs assessment report to **Federal Government by December 20, 2019**.

Stakeholder Engagement and Inputs

Needs Assessment

- Governor's office leadership
- Early Learning Council Data Research and Evaluation Committee
- GOECD vendors
- Three state focus groups
 - Two provider/parent groups
 - One policy/researcher group

Strategic Plan

- Governor's office leadership
- Agency leadership
- June 10, 2019, strategic visioning and planning meeting with leads/funders
- GOECD vendors
- Early Learning Executive Council and Committee meetings
- Additional constituents inputs
 - Focus groups/interviews
 - Online (e.g., webinar/survey)

Strategic Plan: Federal Required Domains

Federal Domains

Stakeholder Contribution

Goals and Action Steps*

Partnerships, Collaborations, Coordination, and Quality Improvement Activities

Transitions Between ECCE Programs and Elementary School

Coordination and Collaboration Among Programs

Framework for Quality

Statutory Requirements*

Measurable Indicators*

State Advisory Council Involvement

*Highlighted domains are areas of focus for the ELC Executive Committee

Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan: Federal Required Alignment

Strategic Plan Alignment With Needs Assessment Domains

- Focal Populations for the Grant System
- Quality and Availability
- Children Being Served and Awaiting Service
- Gaps in Data on Quality and Availability of Programming and Supports for Children and Families
- Gaps in Data/Research to Support Collaboration in Programs/Services and Maximize Parental Choice
- Measurable Indicators of Progress
- Issues Involving ECCE Facilities
- Barriers to the Funding and Provision of High-Quality ECCE Services and Supports and Opportunities for More Efficient Use of Resources
- Transition Supports and Gaps
- Integration and Interagency Collaboration

AIR's PDG B-5 Strategic Planning Project

The opportunity to strategically build upon the ELC's foundational framework, objectives, and metrics, and other State Agency inputs.

- Develop a work plan for the development of the strategic plan.
- Review Illinois' existing strategic plans.
- Draft strategic plan by November 19, 2019.
- Facilitate and conduct stakeholder engagement activities to obtain input on the draft strategic plan by December 16, 2019.
- Write final strategic plan by December 31, 2019.

GOECD, State Agencies, ELC and others use final plan as a tool for ongoing strategic development and prioritizing

Preliminary Initial Working Draft Strawman Outline

Strawman purpose is to serve as a starting point in the evolution of the Illinois' PDG B-5 updated strategic plan

- It is a starting point for discussion on what needs to be done to build the strategic Plan.
- The goals, activities, and strategies for PDG B-5 Strategic Plan comes from review of existing plans, agency leads, the ELC council, and other sources.
- Document lays out the major section headings for the preliminary strategic plan outline based on GOECD guidance and PDG B-5 federal requirements.

Discussion Questions

- How will the ELC provide specific strategies and actions from key documents, such as the June 10th Strategic Vision Planning Meeting?
- How will the committees provide input from their priorities/workplans into the Strategic Plan document?
- What are additional processes for the ELC to comment and provide feedback to the draft, currently scheduled for November, 2019

EBONI C. HOWARD

MANAGING RESEARCHER

EHOWARD@AIR.ORG

MAKING
RESEARCH
RELEVANT

THANK YOU

Advancing the Vision for Early Childhood in Illinois: Racial Equity Work

Dr. Cynthia Tate

ELC Racial Equity Definition

A racially equitable society values and embraces all racial/ethnic identities. In such a society, one's racial/ethnic identity (particularly Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Asian) is not a factor in an individual's ability to prosper.

An early learning system that is racially equitable is driven by data and ensures that:

- Every young child and family regardless of race, ethnicity, and social circumstance has everything s/he/they need to develop optimally;
- Resources, opportunities, rewards, and burdens are fairly distributed across groups and communities so that those with the greatest challenges are adequately supported and not further disadvantaged; and
- Systems and policies are designed, reframed, or eliminated to promote greater justice for children and families.

Racial Equity Priorities for the ELC

The four priorities that the Executive Committee identified for the committees of the Early Learning Council during the July 24th Second Annual Racial Equity Retreat are:

- 1) Align and standardize race/ethnicity data collection and reporting;
- 2) Evaluate and identify whether processes for distributing resources exacerbate racial disparities, including agency contracting;
- 3) Address race/ethnicity disparities in terms of workforce compensation and advancement;
- 4) Eliminate racial/ethnic disparities for children participating in all programs that contribute to school readiness and life success by addressing racial disparities in enrollment in preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and in prenatal to age 3 services.

Committee Workplans & Priorities

Governance & Membership

- Gubernatorial administration provides direction and oversight of priority-setting; revisit annually.
- Membership diversity should match administration priorities and population.
- Consider race/ethnicity, county, gender, and “sector” represented.
- Sharpen focus of ELC
 - Collective vision
 - Infrastructure should match and work together towards collective vision
- Geography of where ELC meetings are held.
- Leverage power of ELC coming together as a group.

Committee Workplans & Priorities

Access (page 1 of 2)

- Who is enrolled in what? (Conducting the analysis)
 - By race/ethnicity
 - By program
 - By geography
 - By income status
- What is the need for the total population of the state?
 - By poverty status (50%, 100%, and 200% of FPL)
 - By total population
- What is the total demand (identify & establish priority)?
 - What is the need?
 - What is the gap?
 - By priority population (ELC approved priority population definition)
- Do RFP prioritize investments in priority population & eliminating the gap
 - Investing resources to develop capacity
- Design systems to ensure the gaps in highest-need & priority populations are met



Committee Workplans & Priorities

Access (page 2 of 2)

- Develop funding mechanisms that allow applicants to provide services to priority populations
 - Sufficient resources available w/out CCAP
 - Redesign funding system
- Metrics of success: Child outcomes; more high-need children served
- Determine what rules, laws, and admin. needs to be changed/addressed
 - Identify & change laws
- Create authentic & robust workforce pipeline supports (linguistic/cultural diversity) to ensure access for priority populations.
- ELC & its Access Committee model robust & best practice family engagement strategies to demonstrate the efficacy of these strategies & impact on child well-being.
- Develop and implement initiative that helps priority populations the importance of early childhood development.

Committee Workplans & Priorities

Quality (page 1 of 2)

- Work to ensure that race and ethnicity are not factors in ability to prosper.
- In partnership with state agencies, support development and implementation of racial equity goals for ExceleRate Illinois.
- Identify racial equity assessment tool for ExceleRate programs to utilize.
- Applying a racial equity lens, develop strategies to link policies for workforce compensation to appropriate education levels to support the vision of a racially and culturally diverse, educated, and professional workforce for early childhood across all sectors.
- Increase knowledge and skills of Early Childhood leaders, including knowledge of racial equity, in all settings.

Committee Workplans & Priorities

Quality (page 2 of 2)

- Increase the evidence base regarding the importance and impact of workforce development, and specifically diversity informed knowledge and credential and degree attainment on program quality.
- Partner with higher education and other experts to increase the number of linguistically, culturally and racially diverse practitioners that attain initial and more advanced degrees within the field.
- Mobilize detailed, geo-specific data to assess progress toward the elimination of racial disparities.
- Work to eliminate the wage disparity gap
- Support community systems development efforts so as to facilitate the provision of services to children of color.

Committee Workplans & Priorities

Integration & Alignment (page 1 of 2)

- Priority 1: Data (necessary for achieving other priorities)
- IAC/DRE: Scan and map by agency/program/service/funder all current prenatal 0-5 child- and family-specific data collection, including how defined, how collected/ reported, and if disaggregated race/ethnicity is available.
 - Create set of recommendations to
- Standardize within and across agencies (aligned with federal programs)
- Close gaps
- Enable data to be seen at classroom level (e.g., which teachers with which students); what's necessary to support research agenda
- Build from existing work (e.g., CSD started data indicator inventory)
 - Use subcommittees to support system/population specific data (health, special needs, etc.)
- Barriers
 - Existing data infrastructure
 - Data literacy capacity
 - Agency bandwidth
 - Data governance policies/practices, including data sharing policies/practices and transparency
 - Data lag—lack of current data to inform resource allocation
 - Some data are not broken down for 0-5 population
- Metrics of progress
 - Mapping completed & available by 12/19
 - Data dashboard review—standing ELC Exec agenda item
 - Agencies develop standardized data collection by 6/30/20

Committee Workplans & Priorities

Integration & Alignment (page 2 of 2)

- Priority 2: Distribution of resources
- IAC/CSD: MDS report which built from BBSF document that the process for distributing resources exacerbates racial disparities
- **New work:** adopt anti-racist policies, practices to allocate program funds & resources to restore balance and create opportunities in historically harmed communities. Operationalize.
- Implement recommendations to **equitably** fund and support community level collaboration and family voice through **statewide** infrastructure
- Barrier: GATA/procurement law/policies can't prevent creating **equitable** resource distribution. Clarify what is fiction and what is fact.
- Metrics of progress
 - RFP process recommendations completed by February 2020, including policies, templates, guidance—1 stop shop for answers
 - Longer term: different ways of allocating funds
 - Family council and community collaborations funded by FY21

Committee Workplans & Priorities

Home Visiting Task Force (page 1 of 2)

- Increase investment to equitably expand access to and quality of home visiting for all eligible families
 - Increase use of beneficiary voice; work in partnership with families to determine effective strategies for engagement/retention
- Collect, report, align, and standardize race/ethnicity data across HV funding streams and systems
 - Federal needs assessment specifies race/ethnicity
- Continue to develop diverse workforce
 - Adequate compensation, prep., and support across race/ethnicity groups
 - Increase workforce capacity to support racially/ethnically diverse families
 - Look at pipeline into HV; determine ways to assure R/E diversity
- Obtain federal funding (Medicaid, FFPSA) for HV and doulas
 - Determine racial disparity impact

Committee Workplans & Priorities

Home Visiting Task Force (page 2 of 2)

- Metrics
 - Utilization of HV reflects R/E breakdown of communities served
 - Increased HV funding
 - Increased number of families participating in stakeholder engagement
 - Expanded R/E diversity in HV Task Force
 - Growth in R/E diverse workforce
- Barriers
 - Avoiding “system” involvement/fear of DCFS and others
 - Low compensation
 - Lack of data across HV funders
 - Lack of adequate funding to assure R/E equity
 - Lack of cross-systems coordination to assure racially equitable resource distribution

Next Steps

- ????????
- ????????
- ????????

Break

Advancing the Vision for Early Childhood in Illinois: PN3 Initiative

Karen Berman

REPORT TO THE ELC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Illinois Prenatal to Three Initiative

October 7th 2019

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ILLINOIS

Participate as a planning state in the PCI Project

Goal: Increase the number of low-income families with children prenatal to age three who are connected to essential and high-quality health, development and social-emotional support services.

Can include: prenatal care, home visiting, early intervention, child care, mental health, health and developmental assessments that are linked to follow-up referral services, and other evidence-based practices that research shows get children on track for school readiness by age three.

Key Question: What are the services and supports that low-income infants and toddlers and their families need to get them ready for school?

Goal: Increase the availability of affordable, high-quality child care for low-income infants and toddlers across diverse settings.

Can include : quality enhancement supports, coaching and mentoring, increased workforce compensation and other strategies necessary to increase the supply, access and affordability of high-quality child care for low-income infants and toddlers in both center and home-based settings.

Key Question: What are the strategies necessary to achieve the goal of an increased supply of affordable, high-quality child care for low-income infants and toddlers?

PCI recommends Illinois set the following goals:

By 2023 25% increase in low-income children 0-3 in services = 50,250 above current baseline

By 2025 50% increase in low-income children 0-3 in services = 100,500 above current baseline (50,250 more than 2023)

HOW WILL IT ALIGN?

Departmental Plans & Priorities

Alignment of PN3 priorities and goals with agency priorities and goals (IDHS, ISBE, IDCFS, IDPH, HFS).

Illinois Early Childhood Visioning and Planning

Sponsored by private funders and the Early Learning Council – broad vision for early childhood. Includes ELC priority populations.



Existing Illinois Initiatives

PDG B-5 Strategic Plan & Needs Assessment, Early Childhood Funding Commission, State Racial Equity Priorities, – long term plans to increase access and quality.

Prenatal to Three Initiative (PN3)

Focus on immediate increases in access and quality over next 3 to 5 years – what do we want for families?

ADDRESSING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS

The coalition first responded to a series of key questions across program streams and at a systems level.

What needs to change in this area in order for families to better access high quality infant and toddler services?

- Are there specific programs that need to expand or change?
- Do we need new or different approaches?
- Do we need to improve the quality of what we're doing somehow?

Who's leading/needs to be engaged?

- What groups/entities/people lead on this topic?
- Who are the family, community, and professional experts we need to engage?

What more do you need to know?

Others?

Specific program streams through which we could reach more infants and toddlers

Early Intervention

Prenatal/Birth
Supports

Home Visiting

Child Care/Center
Based Care

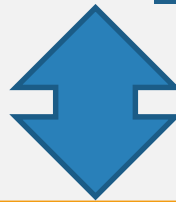
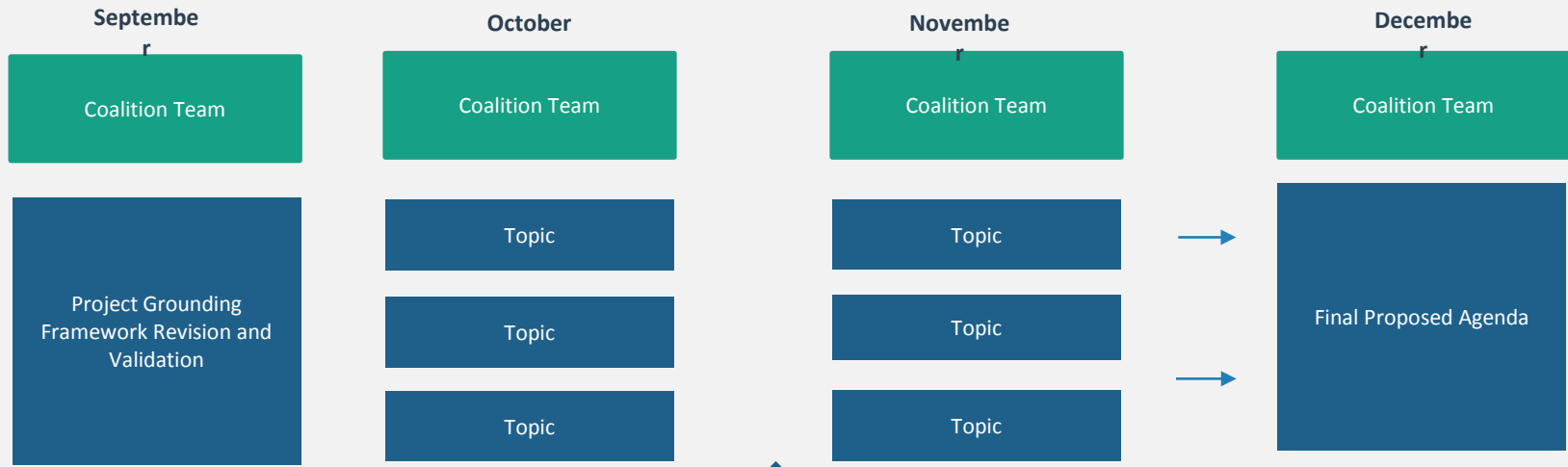
Family Economic
Security

Cross-System Issues

Infrastructure that directly impacts how families access and use programs

PLANNING PROCESS

Their synthesized feedback will become raw material for working groups to establish a policy agenda to support.



Community Meetings/Working Groups by topic

Council Meetings

SAMPLE DELIVERABLE/ OUTCOME

The final deliverable will be populated in the PCI template below.

Proposed Policy or Strategic Goal	Anticipated Impact on Children and Families of Proposed Achievement	Expected Child/Family Impact # (over baseline)	Expected Date of Achievement	How will you measure this? What is your current baseline #?	Activities to achieve proposed policies/strategies	Specific Proposed Deliverables	Deliverable Due Date
Increase quality and number of child care programs serving infants and toddlers. SAMPLE ONLY	At least 500 child care programs serving 1500 infants and toddlers will increase their quality levels from a quality level 2 to a quality level 3 or higher.	1500	05/01/21		Public/private workgroup convened to create a plan to increase the supply and quality of infant/toddler child care. Fact sheets developed on quality child care need by county.	Child Care Plan completed	05/31/20

The policy template includes broad categories of focus for policies, estimates of the impact on children and families, specific activities, deliverables, and a timeline for implementation.

EARLY EMERGING THEMES

Sept. 18th Coalition meeting yielded a range of promising ideas and themes – sample below

1. EI: Address eligibility barriers to facilitate and hasten access to services; transition support when children age out of EI
2. Home Visiting: expand access to intensive home visiting, address compensation and other barriers to expansion; leverage community health workers to bridge gap between home visiting and child care; leverage funding streams to support home visitors and doulas (Medicaid, child welfare, CHIP, etc.)
3. Childcare: increase access to high quality infant and toddler childcare and center based services; address workforce pipeline and compensation issues; support parents with childcare applications
4. Prenatal and Birth Supports: address medical insurance coverage prenatally and post-partum including mental health services, increase access to universal nurse visit after every birth; increase access to WIC
5. Family Economic Security: increase data and information sharing across systems and build a method for automatic enrollment across programs; advance policies like paid medical and family leave, increase access to benefits including SNAP and TANF; address implications of minimum wage increase;
6. Cross System: Establish statewide infrastructure for community collaboration, coordination, and family engagement that supports coordinated intake and enrollment, address impact of the public charge on enrollment in services; support census outreach; build a culturally relevant, multi-lingual, representative workforce across all programs

KEY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

When looking at the emerging themes, the Coalition will consider...

1. Which of these will have a significant impact in reaching children and families prenatal to three?
2. Are there populations or communities we should prioritize as we increase access in this area?
3. Will this policy help to reduce racial disparities and advance racial equity? Does it ensure inclusion?
4. Is there infrastructure to support the intended change? Will systems building be needed?
5. What is the feasibility, given existing state priorities and resources? How should this be timed?
6. KEY

ROLE OF THE ELC / NEXT STEPS

- The ELC's role, as the leading public private partnership in Illinois, is to guide the work of the Coalition at a high level, and to validate and support the recommendations as part of Illinois' early childhood vision and priorities for families in Illinois.
- Engage the full ELC in providing input on the agenda and in building understanding and momentum for implementation

Want to participate in a workgroup or on the coalition?

Write advocacy@theounce.org

To see all resources and meeting dates

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/PN3.aspx>

APPENDIX: ATTENDANCE SEPT 18

Organization	Name
Advance Illinois	Ann Whalen
Advocate Children's Hospital	Robin York
Advocate Children's Hospital	Latasha Lee
Aim and Arrow Group	Eli Cole*
Aim and Arrow Group	Devi Rajav
Aim and Arrow Group	Karen Kerschke
American Institutes for Research (AIR)	Eboni Howard
Children's Home and Aid	Janice Moenster
City of Chicago	Jennifer Alexander
Council for a Strong America	Tim Carpenter
Developmental Therapist--Hearing Specialist	Kristen Schraml-Block
Elgin Partnership for Early Learning	Amber Peters
Erikson Institute	Tonya Bibbs*
EverThrive Illinois	Kirbi Range*
Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development	Tom Layman*
Head Start State Collaboration Office	Donna Emmons
IECAM	Dawn Thomas
IFF	Jose Cerda
Illinois Action for Children	Bryan Stokes*
Illinois Action for Children	Samir Tanna*
Illinois Association of Medicaid Health Plans (IAMHP)	Alaina Kennedy
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP)	Jennie Pinkwater
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP)	Cindy Ogrin
Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership, Illinois Children's Trauma Coalition	Gaylord Gieseke
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services	Kim Mann
Illinois Department of Human Services	Kisha Davis
Illinois Department of Human Services - CCAP/EI/HV	Nakisha Hobbs*
Illinois Department of Human Services - CCAP/EI/HV	Ann Freiburg
Illinois Developmental Therapy Association	Jen Crick
Illinois Head Start Association	Lauri Frichtl
INCCRRA	Dan Harris*
Irving Harris Foundation	Denise Castillo Dell Isola*
Latino Policy Forum	Sylvia Puente*
Legal Council for Health Justice	Kaylan Szafranski
March of Dimes	Ashley Phillips

McCormick Foundation	Cornelia Grumman
McCormick Foundation	Wendy Uptain*
Metropolitan Family Services	Nicole (Nikki) Cameron
Office of Governor J.B. Pritzker	Theresa Hawley
Ounce of Prevention Fund	Kelly Woodlock
Ounce of Prevention Fund	Karen Berman*
Ounce of Prevention Fund	Carie Bires*
Pembroke Early Education Program (P.E.E.P.)	Glenette Cline
Pritzker Children's Initiative	Katie Kelly
Quad Cities ECE Collaborative	Deb Brownson
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law	Veronica Cortez*
Southern IL Collaborative	Marilyn Murry
United Way	Jenny Hansen
Women Employed	Sarah Labadie
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago	Marianne Pokorny
BUILD Consultant	Gail Nourse*
City of Rockford	George Davis
Early Intervention Office of the Ombudsperson	Chelsea Guillen
Health Connect One	Brenda Blasingame
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services	Mary Beth Corrigan
Illinois Developmental Therapy Association	Benny Delgado
Illinois State Board of Education	Penny Smith
Illinois State Board of Education	Tamara Sanders-Carter*
P-20 Family and Community Engagement Subcommittee	Melissa Mitchell--Federation of Community Schools (co-chair)

APPENDIX: COALITION ROSTER

Advancing the Vision for Early Childhood in Illinois: Finance Commission

Jesse Ruiz

Advancing the Vision for Early Childhood in Illinois: PDG B-5 Renewal Grant

Dr. Cynthia Tate

Advancing the Vision for Early Childhood in Illinois: Role of the Early Learning Council

Phyllis Glink and Jesse Ruiz

Announcements & Public Comments

Adjourn