

**Illinois Early Learning Council
Executive Committee Meeting
December 3, 2018, 1:00 – 4:00 PM**

Chicago, James R. Thompson Center, Room 16-504 (100 W. Randolph St., 16th Floor)
Springfield, ISBE Video-conference Room (100 N. 1st St)
Call in: (888) 494-4032 Access Code: 6113045703

In attendance:

Chicago: Samantha Aigner-Treworgy, Emily Bastedo, Karen Berman, Cindy Berrey (for Josie Yanguas), Gaylord Gieseke, Phyllis Glink, Tasha Green Cruzat, Diane Grigsby Jackson, Cornelia Grumman, Nakisha Hobbs, Dr. Kimberly Mann, Andrea Palmer, Teri Talan, Dr. Cynthia Tate, Maria Whelan

Springfield: Kristy Doan, Dan Harris, Carisa Hurley

Phone: Shauna Ejeh, Donna Emmons, George Davis, Chelsea Guillen, Theresa Hawley

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions – Phyllis Glink and Emily Bastedo (10 minutes)

Phyllis Glink called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Phyllis requested introductions from Executive Committee members in the room, on the phone, and in Springfield. Emily Bastedo made a motion to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting in October. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Administration Transition Discussion – Phyllis Glink (30 min)

Phyllis Glink acknowledged that we will be transitioning to a new administration in January. She thanked Emily Bastedo, co-chair of the ELC, and all the state partners who may be leaving for their commitment to the children and families of Illinois. Phyllis then asked Cornelia Grumman to share an update draft vision being put together for the State. Cornelia Grumman shared that a group of funders and ELC Executive Committee members took the opportunity to think through a 20-year vision for early childhood in Illinois. She acknowledged that other work, like the PDG B-5 grant Illinois will hopefully be awarded, also contains foundational elements for the State. This group of funders and advocates wanted to bring a draft of this vision document to the ELC Executive Committee see if there is alignment with other efforts in the State, to get feedback, and to ensure what they put together reflects the values and priorities of the work we do at the ELC.

Teri Talan questioned which items were considered priority on the document. She wanted to go on record saying that we are currently in a child care crisis; teacher compensation parity should be at the top of the list. The need to prioritize the strategies into short, medium, and long-term goals, and to ensure equity is more clearly articulated as a priority, was echoed around the room. Several state partners questioned how the document was created. Members from state agencies were not involved. Was there engagement with practitioners? How are communities being engaged as a part of this conversation? Cornelia Grumman noted that she will be having one-on-one conversations with all Executive Committee members not yet a part of this process. They will be moving quickly, as they hope to offer this document as a framing of high-level issues for the new administration to consider.

3. Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee Report – Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas & Dr. Cynthia Tate (15 minutes)

Drs. Cristina Pacione-Zayas and Cynthia Tate, co-chairs of the Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee (KTAC), gave a presentation on the recently finalized KTAC report. They reviewed the origin, purpose, membership, structure, and timeline of the Committee, highlighting the goals of legislation to guide the work. [Click here](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/Kindergarten%20Transition%20Advisory%20Committee%20Report%20Sept%202018.pdf) or visit the link below for the full KTAC report.
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/Kindergarten%20Transition%20Advisory%20Committee%20Report%20Sept%202018.pdf>

4. Professional Review Panel Update – Amanda Elliott (10 minutes)

Emily Bastedo introduced Amanda Elliott from ISBE (on the phone. Amanda shared that the Professional Review Panel (PRP) met in June; since then they have had two full meetings and multiple subcommittee meetings. The next meeting will be held on Dec. 18th Chicago and Springfield. There have been four individuals charged with leading effort with the ELC and the PRP. They will be starting the work sometime 2019, discussing and determining how funding should be distributed and at what level. Emily Bastedo called for a vote to authorize the establishment of this ad hoc committee. A formal vote was taken. All were in favor. None were opposed. The committee will be formed after the administration change.

5. Break (10 minutes)

6. State Department Updates (80 minutes)

○ DCFS/DPH – Dr. Kimberly Mann & Andrea Palmer (20 min)

Andrea Palmer (DPH) and Dr. Kimberly Mann gave a presentation on Project Hope, an “initiative designed to generate real progress toward equitable outcomes for young children (prenatal to age five) and their families by building the capacity of local communities, state leaders, cross-sector state teams, and local coalitions to prevent social adversities in early childhood and promote child well-being.” States could submit a statement of interest. Illinois identified state systems that would work together on equity for early childhood and was selected for Leadership Journey portion of the project. Committee members went into communities to talk and listen to stories about maternal and infant health, particularly from African American women, for whom the rates of morbidity and mortality are disproportionately higher. The work is now in the Tier 2 phase, which is not funded but Illinois is being offered an opportunity for technical assistance for this system coordination and collaboration work. Andrea Palmer and Dr. Mann suggested that this work sit within a committee of the ELC. Executive Committee members discussed the importance of this work and the need to collaborate on solutions rather than working in silos. The Issue around infant/maternal mortality is important. Our interventions will have to be different if we want to make gains.

○ ISBE – Carisa Hurley (10 min)

Carisa Hurley noted that the Suspension and Expulsion rules should be posted for public comment this week on December 5th. She also noted that the KIDS window closed for rating. McCormick sent over the timeline information, with which ISBE is coordinating their timeline. It was noted that the second KIDS summit will be held on December 13th in Springfield.

○ DHS – Nakisha Hobbs (20 min)

Nakisha Hobbs updated the Executive Committee on the Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) for home visiting programs. This year DHS is planning to issue NOFOs for the Healthy Families Initiative (HFI) and AOK for FY2020. They are required statutorily to issue grants in 3-year terms. They have asked for

exemptions in the past for HFI; now they are mandated to do it. They are not anticipating major changes to the program but are open to meeting with grantees, the ELC, etc. to discuss strengths and challenges of HFI program. Dr. Cynthia Tate noted that the Home Visiting Task Force of the ELC would be a good place to conduct public meetings.

- City of Chicago – Samantha Aigner-Treworgy (30 min)

Samantha Aigner-Treworgy gave a presentation on an upcoming RFP opportunity. She articulated the goals for preschool program expansion, the principles for Chicago’s implementation, how the expansion would be funded, the four-year roll-out and timeframe (beginning in the 2018-2019 school year), and operational planning for DFSS and CPS. For additional information following the presentation, Sam noted that DFSS and CPS will coordinate to put out a written FAQ sheet. She also noted that there will be several upcoming opportunities for public comment/input. The dates will be sent out to Executive Committee members following the meeting.

7. Racial Equity Work - Dr. Cynthia Tate (15 minutes)

Dr. Tate updated the Committee on the racial equity work. Reminder: the racial equity definition has been adopted and the work is focused into four priority areas: Committee Structure, Quality, Access, and Family Voice. The BUILD Team, who has been facilitating this work, has extracted goals from the four work plans and have defined seven overarching strategies. The ask is that each committee examine and determine how their work will align with those goals and strategies. Next steps: By February, committee co-chairs will review these goals; by April meeting work plans will be developed; in June/July we will schedule another racial equity retreat.

8. Announcements (5 minutes)

Phyllis Glink asked if Committee members would be open to extending our meeting time to 4-hours in 2019. There was general agreement around the room and an ask that meetings run from 12-4pm. Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas made an announcement about the Risk and Reach Report, which examines that what undermines child well-being. The report will be released in early 2019.

9. Adjourn

Emily Bastedo asked for Public Comments and there were none. Emily then closed the meeting.

Next Meeting:
Monday, February 4, 2019
1:00-4:00pm