

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

Chicago, ISBE Video-Teleconference Room (100 W. Randolph St., 14th Floor)
Springfield, ISBE Video-teleconference Room (100 N. 1st St)
Call in: (888) 494-4032 Access Code: 6113045703

In attendance:

Chicago: Sam Aigner-Treworgy, Karen Berman, George Davis, Shauna Ejeh, Phyllis Glink, Theresa Hawley (for Maria Whelan), Nakisha Hobbs, Carisa Hurley, Kimberly Mann, Andrea Palmer, Sylvia Puente, Diana Rauner, Sara Slaughter, Teri Talan, Dr. Cynthia Tate, Josie Yanguas

Springfield: Kristy Doan

Phone: Tasha Green Cruzat

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions – Phyllis Glink and Dr. Cynthia Tate (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.

Dr. Cynthia Tate introduced Carisa Hurley, new Director of Early Childhood at ISBE. Carisa Hurley shared some of her early childhood program experience in Chicago. Dr. Tate then introduced Nakisha Hobbs, new Associate Director of the Office of Early Childhood at DHS. Dr. Tate made a motion to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting in August. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Racial Equity Retreat Reflections and Next Steps - Phyllis Glink (30 minutes)

Phyllis Glink read aloud the racial equity definition developed by the Executive Committee at the retreat in July 2018. There was a discussion around how to operationalize the definition into the work of the Early Learning Council (ELC) and its committees and subcommittees. It was decided that the 4 work plans that were developed during the retreat (Access, Quality, Family Voice, and Committee Structure) would be shared out so the Co-chairs of the committees and subcommittees could figure out how to ensure the definition is embedded in the committee priorities. It was also decided that the racial equity definition and an update on the Executive Committee's progress would be shared at the full ELC meeting in November 2018. At the next Executive Committee meeting (December 3, 2018), committee Co-chairs are to report back on what was discussed with their respective groups and the role of the Executive Committee in this work will be defined.

3. Committee Reports (40 minutes)

- Access Committee – Maria Whelan and George Davis (10 min)

George Davis noted that on September 18th the full Access Committee and subcommittee groups met; the All Families Served and Family Engagement Implementation subcommittees revisited their work plans. By the end of this calendar year they should have items they are able to move forward. At these recent meetings, the issue of resources for parent engagement came up. How we advocate within the

system for funding to support parent engagement, whether through federal dollars or existing parent engagement programs, was discussed. It was decided that it is important to map dedicated resources and how the resources are dedicated before asking for more.

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

Teri Talan reported that much of the work on quality is being done by the ExceleRate subcommittee. The group is breaking down CQI into tangible steps. Recently, committee members interviewed program leaders doing exemplary work in CQI. It was noted that the Quality Committee would like to more directly embed racial equity into their work.

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

Karen Berman announced that the full IAC committee and its five subcommittees/ad hocs all just met and are scheduled to meet again between October 11-December 5. They are doing a deeper dive into ECBG and will share their findings with this group once they have more data. The Inclusion Subcommittee is distributing surveys to uncover what school districts and CBOs are doing to support children with disabilities. The Data, Research, and Evaluation Subcommittee has been meeting with all groups in the ELC to try and refresh the research agenda. The Mixed Delivery Systems ad hoc committee was formed; an update will be provided at the next full Executive Committee meeting. The ad hoc will look at what needs to be done to help programs access the funds they need to give all kids access to high quality services.

- Home Visiting Taskforce – Gaylord Gieseke and Diana Rauner (10 min)

Gaylord Gieseke noted that the Home Visiting Taskforce (HVTF) last met in July. There are a number of pilots underway: the pilot with DCFS home visiting for pregnant parenting and youth is moving forward; the EI collaboration effort is still in planning phases; the Illinois Family Connects pilot is underway. Based on a report on maternal morbidity and mortality, HVTF is examining opportunities for cross training with IDPH for home visitors for maternal self-advocacy in medicine. The committee also launched an ad hoc subcommittee to look at injury prevention and violence in the home. Lesley Schwartz and Penny Smith will Co-chair.

4. **Break** (10 minutes)

5. **State Department Updates** (60 minutes)

- ISBE – Carisa Hurley (20 min)

Carisa Hurley updated the committee on ECBG: 431 PFA grants were awarded; 61 PFA-E; 146 PI. Sept 30th was the deadline for programs to have their budgets in the system. It looks like majority are in at this time. ISBE is having conversations about how to administer a survey to the evaluators; this body would like to hear from those who scored and awarded the RFPs. The ELC asked that ISBE look at how the re-competition process went so we can improve the process moving forward. NIU: ISBE has a contract with NIU. It's a multi-year, multi-outcome grant with five deliverables; research has begun on the first three. One important deliverable is engagement with the ELC, which is planned for December 2018/January 2019.

- DHS – Nakisha Hobbs (20 min)

Nakisha Hobbs reported that the additional \$75 million CCDBG funding is to be spent over 2 years; much will be spent on 12-month eligibility, which DHS officially launched on October 1st. DHS Just updated their homelessness policy and are manually updating the system to give a 60-day grace period. For the

Health and Safety trainings, they will start the verification process on Oct. 1st. No provider will be cut off while DHS is conducting the verification. Providers will be notified of their classification: fully qualified to receive CCAP payments; provisionally qualified (90-day grace period to finish trainings); or not qualified (given 30-day notice asking them to get their training within 30 days to submit). The Executive Committee discussed some of the issues providers faced in attending the trainings and expressed a desire to capture how this situation is impacting parents and families.

- GOECD – Dr. Cynthia Tate, GOECD Staff & Bethany Patten (20 min)

Dr. Cynthia Tate introduced the GOECD Strategic Planning Team members who were present at the meeting. GOECD staff shared with the Committee the office’s newly developed strategic plan, including a vision, goals, functions, and strategies in four priority areas: Families and Communities; Educators and the Workforce; Providers and Settings; Systems and Alignment. Bethany Patten then gave a presentation on early childhood educator workforce development, highlighting the work of the Children’s Cabinet.

6. PDG B-5 Update – Dr. Cynthia Tate (5 minutes)

Dr. Cynthia Tate gave the Committee an update on GOECD’s development of the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5) federal grant proposal. The Planning Committee has been structured around the five Activities in the FOA. Activity 1 and 2, needs assessment and strategic plan, need to be completed and approved before beginning on Activity 5, quality improvement. Activity 3 (increasing parental choice and knowledge) and Activity 4 (sharing best practices) can begin at any time in the one-year grant period. Illinois is a state with a complex system with a lot of work done, but we also know there is a lot of alignment and coordination we have to do. This is a great opportunity for Illinois.

7. Professional Review Panel Update – Dr. Cynthia Tate (10 minutes)

PA 0465 Evidence-based Funding for Student Success Act. The ELC is working with members of the Professional Review Panel (PRP) at ISBE. There is one panel focused on early childhood. We intend to do some of the original work from lessons learned from ECBG. We will form a committee with representatives from the PRP to look at what it takes to adequately fund early childhood in Illinois. This is an opportunity to stay in the school funding conversation even though we did not want to be included in the funding formula.

8. Announcements (5 minutes)

Phyllis Glink gave a brief introduction to the film, “No Small Matter.” She is hoping the ELC and Executive Committee can serve as think tank with the Kindling Group and their partners to disseminate the film as widely as possible. Laura Fallsgraff from the Kindling Group noted that the intention is to elevate the urgency around solving some of the early childhood issues in Illinois and across the U.S. Phyllis Glink noted that we will show the film at the full ELC meeting in November and ask people how they would engage their own communities.

Josh Kaufmann from Teach Plus shared an Early Childhood Fellowship opportunity. They are looking for educators to apply and are also hiring for a Policy Manager for this program.

9. Adjourn

There was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting:

Monday, December 3, 2018

1:00-4:00pm