

**Illinois Early Learning Council
Executive Committee Meeting
April 1, 2019, 1:00 – 4:00 PM**

Chicago, James R. Thompson Center, Room 16-504 (100 W. Randolph St., 16th Floor)
Springfield, 207 State House (301 South 2nd Street)
Call in: (888) 494-4032 Access Code: 6113045703

In attendance

Chicago: Karen Berman, Shauna Ejeh, Gaylord Gieseke, Phyllis Glink, Cornelia Grumman, Nakisha Hobbs, Carisa Hurley, Dr. Kimberly Mann, Sylvia Puente, Diana Rauner, Jesse Ruiz, Teri Talan, Dr. Cynthia Tate, Josie Yanguas.

Phone: Sam Aigner-Treworgy, George Davis, Kristy Doan, Dan Harris, Sara Slaughter, Maria Whelan.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions – Phyllis Glink and Jesse Ruiz (10 minutes)

Phyllis Glink called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Phyllis then introduced Jesse Ruiz, new co-chair of the Early Learning Council. Jesse acknowledged that Illinois is blessed with such a strong early childhood advocacy community and that he is looking forward to working with everyone. Phyllis requested introductions from Executive Committee members in the room, on the phone, and in Springfield (no one was there), and then from guests on the phone and in the room. Dr. Cynthia Tate made a motion to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting in February. Cornelia Grumman noted that we agreed to pause outreach for the ECE Vision at that meeting and asked that it be reflected in the minutes. With that amendment, the February minutes were approved.

2. PDG B-5 Update – Dr. Cynthia Tate (10 minutes)

Dr. Cynthia Tate gave an update on the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5). Activity One: Needs Assessment – GOECD is talking with universities to help with the unduplicated count of children. Illinois is closer to an unduplicated count than most states. Activity Two: Strategic Planning – the RFSP will soon be posted. The Governance RFSP is in review. Positions are being hired at Erikson/DCFS and MIECHV. Activity Three: Maximizing Parental Choice and Knowledge - An IGA will allow us to put dollars into updates into the Sunshine website at DCFS. Activity Four: Sharing Best Practices - ISBE posted an RFSP to develop curriculum and supports for Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care. It is in review now. Money for the Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation is in contract, along with updates to the ExceleRate website. Activity Five: Improving Quality - These activities are not supposed to begin until the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan are approved. GOECE and ISBE are waiting to hear from the feds on this.

3. Vision Goal Setting and Strategic Planning – Elliot Regenstein (30 min)

Phyllis Glink reminded everyone that the Irving Harris Foundation, Stone Foundation, and McCormick Foundation started a high-level framework and vision for the State to share with the new administration. While the PDG B-5 work is being contracted out, Elliot Regenstein has been contracted by this group of funders to get started on the Strategic Planning work to pave the way for the PDG B-5 work once the RFSPs are awarded. Elliot Regenstein noted that a preliminary planning retreat is planned for April 26th to identify 3-5 priorities. By the end of May, we will finalize an approach for broader stakeholder engagement to help set a path forward for the selected PDG B-5 contractor. It was requested that voices from different geographies in the state be included in this planning process. It was also recommended that a communication template be developed so there is an identifiable look to PDG B-5 updates and requests for feedback. There was a brief conversation about a potential conflict of

interest for those who intend to attend this planning retreat and also apply for the RFSP. Karen Berman and Shauna Ejeah then gave a brief overview of the results from the Early Learning Council (ELC) survey activity at the February ELC meeting.

4. Racial Equity Updates – ELC Committee Co-chairs (35 minutes)

Dr. Cynthia Tate noted that the Illinois BUILD Team has been working on a racial equity agenda with the ELC; Carisa Hurley from ISBE is a new member. Dr. Tate noted that at today's meeting, committee chairs and co-chairs are going to update this body about the conversations they have had with their respective groups. Karen Berman (Integration & Alignment Committee co-chair (IAC)) noted that IAC looked at the work plans within each committee and subcommittee. They found when they looked at whether their work plans were explicitly designed to address equity, they do not. However, when they looked at if their work will address racial disparities, most of it does/will. Karen noted that one of the biggest barriers is the lack of access to the data to help us make data-informed decisions. Teri Talan (Quality Committee co-chair) highlighted work the committee is doing to address the needs of communities of color, but seconded Karen's concern that the work has not been articulated as having a racial equity approach. George Davis (Access Committee co-chair) noted that Access can report back to the Executive Committee after its subcommittees meet and report back to them. Karen Berman also noted that IAC is reexamining its membership to be more diligent about recruiting with an equity lens. Phyllis Glink noted that the full ELC membership survey will be going out soon. Bylaws are also being drafted so this body can vet the priorities and we can reiterate requirements of members, such as committee participation.

5. Break (15 minutes)

6. Early Childhood Workforce Development Project – Bethany Patten (10 minutes)

Bethany Patten provided an update on work GOECD has been leading around compensation parity for educators in Illinois. This work is funded by National Governors Association and started with a national review of policies seeking to address compensation issues. Illinois has arrived at 3 general policies (proposed): development of a wage and salary schedule, expanding the compensation language in contracts, and incorporating compensation into QRIS and tiered reimbursement. This group has sought external consultation to model the implementation of these policies. They will package all of the information into a consensus statement and bring it back to this body at the June meeting. Teri Talan noted that these policies will not be recommended or required unless public funding is available; the burden will not fall on families to pay more for early care.

7. State Department Updates (20 minutes)

○ ISBE – Carisa Hurley (10 minutes)

Carisa Hurley noted that the Suspension and Expulsion rules have been posted and close on April 8th. As of the previous Friday, there were 8 comments submitted. Amendments will be presented at ISBE's May Board meeting. Then they will go back to JCAR for another 45-day comment period based on the comments received, and JCAR will set the date for the formal approval. Carisa also noted that we are in the second full year of the release of KIDS data. Information is currently with districts in embargo (until June 25th, the release date) so they can review before the data goes public. Phyllis Glink asked if the Executive Committee would empower her and her co-chair to write a letter to ISBE from the Executive Committee on behalf of the ELC with a request to disaggregate the KIDS data by race? A motion was seconded and approved. There was a discussion about the role of the ELC in trying to understand the KIDS data and use it to analyze what systems are/are not doing well. It was decided that several volunteers would meet to discuss recommendations for how to best have a larger conversation and where the work should sit within the ELC committee structure. Carisa closed by noting that a survey will

be coming out to see which programs are using Pathways to PEL license, and that the FY20 ECBG RFSP has not yet been released but will be out soon.

- DHS – Nakisha Hobbs (10 minutes)

Nakisha Hobbs reported that the AOK network NOFO was posted today on DHS website; it closes on May 1st. They are anticipating 12 awards between \$63,000-\$90,000. The NOFO for HFI is close; DHS is working to ensure that communities are not over-saturated. Dr. Cynthia Tate noted the difference between ISBE's open bidding process and DHS's ability to prioritize communities based on need, highlighting that we have different processes by which we distribute resources in this state. Under CCDBG, Nakisha reported that the homelessness policy has been in place since October; however, the 90-day grace period has yet to be changed in DCFS administrative rules and is causing confusion for providers. Nakisha noted that the feds require the state to pay the fees for CCAP. Illinois is not currently doing this, and INCCRRA is helping DHS with the appeal process. Regarding background checks, though the feds expect extensive checks for employees under 18 years old, Illinois' Child Care Act only allows for the background check of individuals over 18. DHS intends to elevate this issue to the level of the Governor's Office.

8. Committee Reports (40 minutes)

- Access Committee – Maria Whelan and George Davis (5 minutes)

The Access Committee did not end up presenting due to time.

- Integration & Alignment Committee – Shauna Ejeah and Karen Berman (15 minutes)

- Mixed Delivery Systems Recommendations – Dr. Jamilah R. Jor'dan and Theresa Hawley

Dr. Jamilah R. Jor'dan and Theresa Hawley presented on the Mixed Delivery System ad hoc committee's charge, findings, recommendations, and next steps for ensuring equitable access to funding for all early childhood programs in Illinois. It was recommended that wage and benefits parity be called out specifically in the recommendations, possibly in Recommendation #1. It was noted that any additional recommendations can be emailed to Iveree Brown so that adjustments can be made before the final meeting of the ad hoc in May. With updates to the report that reflect today's conversation, a motion was made to approve the Mixed Delivery System Recommendations. The motion was seconded and approved.

- Quality Committee – Dan Harris and Teri Talan (20 minutes)

- ExceleRate QRIS Recommendations – Teri Talan and Toni Porter

Toni Porter, co-chair of the ExceleRate, discussed how we want to see CQI in practice daily rather than just for one day of prep. Tom Layman, ExceleRate subcommittee staffer, then gave an overview of the recommendation documents and appendices. The eight recommendations outlined in "What Does a Program Leader Do?" are based off of leaders in ExceleRate programs and what they do to support CQI. Teri Talan, co-chair of the ExceleRate and Quality Committees, noted that the recommendations are to be embedded in the culture, as driven by leadership, and they are intended to be supportive, not restrictive. Approving the recommendations at this meeting came into question because they include costs and encourage change within State agencies. However, a motion was made to approve the recommendations with friendly amendments and wordsmithing. The motion was seconded, and the recommendations were approved.

9. Announcements (10 minutes)

There were no announcements.

10. Adjourn

Phyllis Glink thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Next Meeting:
Monday, June 3, 2019
1:00-4:00pm