Integration and Alignment Committee (IAC) Meeting
Wednesday, April 18, 2018
10:30am- 1:00pm
The Ounce: 33 W. Monroe, 24th floor, Board Rooms East and West
Conference call-in number: 650-429-3300
Pass code: 276 847 350#

Meeting Agenda

1) Welcome and Introductions (10 mins.)  
Karen Berman/ Shauna Ejeh
10:30- 10:40am

In person:
Karen Berman
Sandy De León
Bryan Stokes
Carie Bires
Julia Zhu
Jordan Wildermuth
Cornelia Grumman
Kaylan Szafranski
Allison Lowe-Fotos
Karen Yarbrough
Denise Dell Isola
Iveree Brown

On phone:
Shauna Ejeh
Penny Smith
Kristy Doan
Jessica Duggan
Donna Emmons
Jeanna Capito
Judith Walker-Kendrick
Lynn Burgett
Vicki Hodges
Chelsea Guillen
Elaine Gatwick
Hillary Presper
Mendy Smith
Jenny Metcalf
Lori Orr
Alli Schuck
Phyllis Blivens
Alicia Lynch-Deatherage
Kristina Rogers
Cynthia Tate

2) Review IAC meeting minutes from 09.27.2017 (5 mins.)  
Shauna Ejeh
10:40- 10:45am
- Minutes from 01.10.2018 IAC meeting were reviewed: No edits were suggested. All were in favor of approval of Minutes, none were opposed.

3) Mixed delivery system (10 mins.)  
Shauna Ejeh
12:05- 12:15pm
- Confusion and issues concerning Mixed Delivery Systems were discussed.
- Discussion focused on blending and braiding funding confusion due to varying information on what is and isn’t allowed. Example: HS children who also get PFA/PFAE funds in
afternoon and programs require getting on bus or walking down a hall. For 0-3 EHS requires 6 hours and allows wrap around services and PI is 5 hours.
- It was suggested a workgroup form to continue the conversation and to identify the misconceptions, misinformation and barriers to blending and braiding funding for programs.
- Ad hoc workgroup volunteers: Kathy Villano, Judith Walker-Kendrick, Penny Smith, Donna Emmons, Bryan Stokes, offered as possible ad hoc members- Ann Kremer (Early Choices), Rose Harris (DHS).

4) Federal and State Updates (10 mins.)

OECD
10:45- 10:55am
OECD shared information on the projects currently funded with additional PFAE funding.
- Supplemental projects and funding for PreK discussed.
- The first phase of the Master Cadre is being implemented using the Pyramid Model.
- Equity Project: Providing intensive coaching to administrator and director level staff to promote racial equity.
  - A demonstration project will be implemented providing racial equity training to a small cohort of leadership staff in Preschool Expansion Grant programs, adapting existing resources on racial equity in early childhood settings to reflect the responsibilities of program administrators.
  - A community systems portal website will be created to facilitate inter-regional collaboration and the sharing of information. The Portal will house a feedback loop for community systems development and will serve as a clearinghouse for best practices and resources pertaining to community collaborations and systems development.
  - Build out structures that are needed for high-fidelity implementation of the Pyramid Model into PDG-Expansion programs. The intent of implementing the pyramid model into programs is to provide high quality professional development to staff and continue to expand the high quality of preschool programs; resulting in universal and targeted supports for children’s positive behavior and social-emotional development.

5) Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) (10 mins.)

ISBE
10:55- 11:05am
Update: FY18 and FY19 RFPs
- FY18: Programs were supposed to notify ISBE by March 5th if they were planning on using money awarded, two programs are not and the rest are trying to use it and are submitting amended budgets. ISBE anticipates having unallocated funds.
  - It was asked whether a program using money for mental health consultation can submit a budget to reallocate funds. ISBE said yes. They will send a form out asking if there are areas where they need additional funding and they can submit that form. That communication will go out any day now.
  - It was asked if suggestions are made on what programs can use the money for or if any guidance was provided? ISBE said not usually, that it’s up to programs to put it where they need it- transportation, salaries, playground equipment, etc.
  - Question was asked if para-professionals would be able to use the money for covering tuition costs. ISBE said they haven’t allowed grant funds to be used to pay
for pursuit of degrees because it is seen as a personal investment and the teacher could leave the program. Further discussion was requested.

- Question asked if there is an approximation of unallocated FY18 funds. ISBE is unsure but the information is being collected.

**FY19:** FY19 PFA and PFAE scores and post evaluation meetings have been completed.

- ISBE has final scores and rankings and is in the process of putting together funding scenarios.
- There is more demand for money than supply even if ISBE receive additional $50 million.
- FY19 PI: ISBE is still conducting post-evaluation meetings and once finalized will have final scores for that as well.
- ISBE sent out notification that awardees will not be notified until after budget is finalized and ISBE has spending authority.
- ISBE had good intentions to notify grantees sooner, but with it being a full re-compete year, there has been a lot of change. It was stated that more information concerning funds and more outreach to programs would be great. ISBE was thanked for all of their work and efforts.
- If programs have questions refer them to their ISBE consultants.

6) **Discussion: ECBG Re-competition learning opportunities Part I**

ECBG TA: Takeaways and lessons learned (60 mins.)

Jeanna Capito/ Karen Yarbrough  
11:05am- 12:05pm

- Background on ECBG TA initiative was given (see document).
- TA Consultants used IECAM data to ensure outreach to communities of “high need.” They attempted to bring together all resources and expertise to support the re-compete process.
- Top quartile of risk was 188 school districts. There were 56 LEAs without any ECBG funds who received more intensive outreach.
- Initially, there were 240 responses to survey and due to the overwhelming response and RFP delays they had to pull back their efforts.
- Discussion of learnings from 6 key areas from TA (see document):
  - Defining High Need
    - IECAM data was used to identify areas of high need.
  - Reaching and serving well, high need communities
    - There was a lot of cold outreach.
    - Some identified areas of high need were very small and had no physical or staff capacity to implement EC program.
    - Rural and small settings presented some issues.
    - Recommendation: Allow for time it takes to build partnerships in local communities (both service partnerships and collaborations).
  - Program option complexity
    - Found there was confusion on program models (full day vs. part day and hours).
ISBE acknowledged that it is understandable that when there is a new model people will be uncertain and unclear about what to do. They are hoping to provide more support and anticipate that over the years to come they will learn from what is happening in the field and will modify accordingly.

ISBE said it would be a great idea for the advocacy groups to create a document that shows similarities and differences among HV models.

Recommendation: Decouple home visiting and center-based (high-quality, comprehensive) program options to allow for more flexibility.

- **Capacity for grant writing and management**
  - Found people and organizations were overwhelmed for various reasons, regardless of if they were new programs or had received previous funding.
  - Some programs only had one person running the program and trying to navigate the application process. It was overwhelming.
  - Recommendation: Develop professional resources and provide access to high-quality grant-writing and time management training.

- **Comprehensive and integrated programs**
  - Deadlines and RFP process made it hard to integrate the practical administration process of the grant.
  - Timing of release across three RFPs was not aligned and so presented challenge for programs to think about how to build and propose an integrated birth to five approach.
  - Recommendation: Develop a more complete understanding of the opportunities for integration across models (practical implantation) as well as an understanding of the administrative options for operating.

- **Budget**
  - Found developing a budget was the area with the most questions and comments.
  - Despite extensive time spent with TA and still had an extremely hard time navigating the process.
  - Writing a one-year budget that would cover costs through fifth year was a concept which was a challenge for applicants.
  - Question was posed, how do you create equity in application process?
  - It was suggested that the Mixed Delivery Systems ad hoc workgroup look at these findings.
  - Suggested to possibly provide sample budgets to applicants.
  - Supplanting was a huge issue- provide concrete examples.
  - It was asked whether there was information on the impact that had been made due to the TA. It was explained that they are waiting for information from ISBE in order to determine this.
  - ISBE was asked if they have aggregate data on the pool of the applications. What percentage were from high need communities? And do we lose these applicants because of delayed budget? Would this inform expanded funding opportunities if there is extra money? Are there high need communities that apply repeatedly and get turned down? ISBE has the
information (score sheet, their comments, and total score) but a FOIA request will have to be submitted.

- IAC co-chairs will develop a FOIA request for applicant information and data that will help inform future ECBG conversations.
- If interested in providing input to FOIA request email kberman@ounceofprevention.org.
- Recommendation: Develop an ongoing technical assistance process pertaining to budget and finances for those professionals and programs that may benefit from additional supports.

7) IAC Subcommittee updates (45 mins.)
Karen Berman
12:15- 1:00pm

- **Health:**
  - Reported that HFS representative came and provided overview of transition to state-wide Managed Care.
  - At last meeting, a representative from EHS/HS and County Care provided overview of their work to identify overlap in health requirements and work which aligns across Early Childhood and health sectors.
  - They saw opportunities and overlap where this group can plug in things for quality metrics.
  - A survey is being developed to gauge interest in workgroup to think about membership, gaps, and how to leverage networks to fill in gaps.
  - A white paper on EPSTD is being created.

- **Community Systems Development:**
  - Reported that Leah Pouw is no longer working at Illinois Action for Children and so CSD now has two co-chairs.
  - Work plan updates will be considered to reflect role of the CSD in the contract for community systems support that was granted to Illinois Action for Children and to reflect the role of CSD in the feedback loop being established through OECD.
  - Attendees were urged to get more involved with the subcommittee because they will be informing big buckets of work.
  - Anyone interested in joining CSD can email co-chair Julia Zhu at Julia.Zhu@illinois.gov.

- **Inclusion:**
  - Kristy Doan reported that they are trying to support programs in getting special education programs in community programs.
  - There is an ad-hoc subcommittee developing a survey that will go to child care, HS/EHS, PI/PFA, and LEAs to identify the opportunities and barriers to providing inclusive services in community based environments.
  - It was suggested that Mixed Delivery Systems workgroup look at the survey.
  - EI and ISBE moving forward with developing a training for providers around the state branded MOU and referral forms. It is on hold due to finalizing the standardized referral form.
  - The Inclusion Summit will be reconvened on June 5th to celebrate what has been accomplished in past year and identify priorities moving forward.
- **Data, Research, and Evaluation (DRE):** See handouts.
  - The Subcommittee updated the research agenda.
  - If there is any feedback on that or on “Updated Elements of the Data Agenda” please contact Carmen Garcia at cgarcia@ounceofprevention.org.
  - There is a special meeting on April 20 to discuss a new data field that ISBE is considering collecting.

8) **Reminders**
- Integration & Alignment (IAC) meetings:
  - FY19 TBD
- ELC Executive Committee Meeting:
  Location: ISBE Video Conference Rooms in Chicago and Springfield
  - Monday, June 4, 2018: 1:00-4:00pm
- Early Learning Council (full) meeting:
  Location: TBD
  - Monday, June 18, 2018: 11:00am-2:00pm