

Illinois Early Learning Council (ELC) Quality Committee
October 5, 2016
Meeting Notes

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|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Alice Giordano | Cindy Mahr | Joni Scritchlow |
| Ann Freiburg | Cindy Wall | Joyce Weiner |
| Ashley Becker | Dan Harris | Karen Zehnal |
| Beth Berendsen | Deb Widenhofer | Lisa Downey |
| Brenda Smith | Deborah Clark | Marcy Mendenhall |
| Cathy Main | Diane King | Melissa Batchelor |
| Chris Bzdon | Faith Arnold | Rebecca Pruitt |
| Chris Rosean | Gail Nelson | Teri Talan |
| | | Tonya Glaze |

Welcome - Dan Harris and Teri Talan, Co-Chairs

Review of the Meeting Notes

- **Meeting notes revised to reflect the correct spelling of Karen Zehnal**
 - Meeting notes from May 9, 2016 were approved.

New ELC Structure – Dan Harris and Teri Talan

- The newly formed ELC Quality Committee will not lose the work of the previous ELC Program Standards and Quality committee. We will develop a work plan for the committee to affirm, validate and continue key aspects of the work moving forward.
- Potential new area of focus: Helping Licensed Exempt providers infuse quality into their programs. What does quality look like for those settings?
 - Could collect strategies from providers to have examples
 - Challenges how to reach license exempt
 - What is the incentive to LE for increasing quality?
 - How can quality be measured?
 - Could create a network of providers
 - Marcy Mendenhall – SAL – has helped LE providers connect to the community. Quality measures might include when/if they become licensed, credential attainment as evidence of advancing knowledge and education, etc.

Report from Higher Education Learning and Professional Development Committee – Cathy Main, Co-Chair

- The Higher Education LPD Committee will meet in December. Depending on the direction of the ELC Quality Committee, this subcommittee may, or may not, continue to exist as it is currently structured/placed.
 - The Higher Education Learning and Professional Development members would like to continue their work.
 - This committee has spent time focusing on articulation of two- and four- year institutions in an effort to eliminate barriers; ways to support students articulating from an associate degree to a bachelor degree
 - The EPPI grants resulted in a new Monograph that will be published in December; a second report will also be published – a policy brief – early in 2017.
- A focus of the Higher Education LPD Committee has been supporting professionals coming into the field at all levels. Joyce Weiner shared results of these discussions in a summary titled: **Strategies for Advancing Early Childhood Dual Language Learning and Culturally Responsive Practices**

- What are the competencies that go into preparing teachers?
- What is the role of credentialing in supporting culturally responsive practices as professionals moved throughout the career lattice?
- Are there opportunities for BA level teachers to gain a bilingual ESL endorsement?
- How can coursework and learning and field experiences be responsive to all teachers regardless of the funding stream supporting them and their programs?
- Teri Talan shared the document with the PDAC Qualifications and Credentials Committee; recommendations regarding strategies to increase culturally responsive knowledge linked to the renewal of credentials are moving forward.

State Landscape/National Initiatives

- **Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, Gail Nelson**
 - Illinois' Federal site visit was recently conducted and was successful.
 - All Race to the Top grant money must be expended – and targets met.
 - OCED has applied for a no cost extension to ensure spend down all money.
 - Maternal Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV):
 - 2016 grant was 8.6 million dollars.
 - Increased the number of home visiting agencies from 27 to 34 as of July 1st which will allow them to serve 200 more families with a full capacity up to 836.
 - Have expanded their infant mental health consultations and are looking at a home visiting child welfare pilot project where community based home visiting programs are providing services for pregnant women, parents and teens.
 - State plan amendment added home visiting to the continuum of Medicaid reimbursement services.
 - The Inter-Agency Team met in July to articulate common areas of commitment to collaborate. These initiatives include: data alignment, outcomes, effectiveness, quality of services, comprehensive services for complex children, identifying and reducing barriers to access.
 - Preschool Expansion Grant will be increasing 2900 slots for four- year olds, in full day preschool.
 - ExceleRate: 1,037 child care centers have a quality rating above the license level. This is 35%, and a 105% increase since 2013.
 - 19% of our licensed child care centers are at or above the Gold Circle of Quality. The goal is 25%.
 - We are entering our final round of Awards of Excellence applications for 2016.
 - Currently have 72 applicants for Awards of Excellence that will be reviewed in the next two months.
 - Will launch an initiative to move a significant number of programs from the licensing Circle of Quality to Bronze.
 - Recently extended the two-year eligibility for Bronze Circle of Quality to three years.
 - 100% of school based Preschool for All programs are enrolled in ExceleRate.
 - Dr. Cynthia Tate is the new Executive Director for the Office of Early Childhood Development.
- **Illinois Department of Human Services**
 - No report
- **Illinois State Board of Education**
 - Dan Harris spoke regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
 - The Act requires that states submit a plan to show how they will meet the requirements of the Federal Law. The Illinois State Board of Education is currently engaged in producing a plan with public input.
 - Listening sessions have been held around the state. A final state plan is due in March 2017. The state website has a link to the current version of the plan and a user friendly readers guide.

- The P20 Council reached out to the Early Learning Council to provide input to the state plan for ESSA. The Teacher Leader Effectiveness Committee is addressing workforce development; early childhood needs to be included.
 - Looking for specific recommendations around workforce development that can be incorporated for the early care and education workforce for the ESSA Plan. Recommendations should be back to the P20 Council by the beginning of November.
- Cathy Main reported on developing a new data system to capture information from Higher Education Institutions and are looking for higher ed institutions to pilot. Cathy encouraged any representatives for early childhood programs to be a part of the pilot so early childhood education is represented.
- Cathy Main reported that the Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) program is revising the early childhood education content exam. They need content experts, if you are interested please contact Robyn Kaczowka at evaluationsystemsgrg@pearson.com.
- Teri shared information on priorities including the recompleting for the Preschool for All programs coming up in FY 2018.
- Teri shared that Reyna Hernandez is no longer with the Illinois State Board of Education.
- More emphasis on the prevention initiative and building more capacity for center and home based for meeting the prevention initiative need for birth to three.
- **Illinois Board of Higher Education**
 - No report.
- **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Carol Morris**
 - Denice Murray, deputy director for licensing retired earlier this month.
 - Illinois Sunshine website (www.sunshine.dcf.illinois.gov) updates have been finished.
- **Chicago Public Schools, Chris Rosean**
 - CPS is initiating another cohort for teachers to get the bilingual endorsement.
 - Cohort is specific for teachers to gain their bilingual endorsement.
 - Will build in a component of the cohort for heritage speakers to read and write in their heritage language.
 - Three early childhood centers received an Award of Excellence and one is awaiting results.
 - 800 parents participated in a parent summer institute.
- **Advocacy/State Budget updates**
 - Illinois Action for Children is advocating and educating the state legislature regarding the stop gap budget. The stop gap budget does not have enough money to make it through the end of the fiscal year.
- **Other**
 - Gail Nelson announced that Donna Emmons is the new Associate Head Start State Collaboration Director. Shauna Ejeh (formerly with the IHSA/as Head Start Collaboration Director) is now the new Executive Director of Baby Talk.
 - Anna Collins and Christi Chadwick have both left OECD.

Next Steps

Future meetings will be held 11:30AM to 1:30 PM (slight meeting time revision)

- **Wednesday, January 25, 2017**
- **Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

Adjourn