

**Illinois Early Learning Council**  
**Family and Community Engagement**  
**Principles & Practices Subcommittee**

**November 18, 2014 • 10am – 12pm**

**Minutes**

- Attendees: Grenada Williams, Shauna Egeh, Scott Kibler, Saleem Hue Penny, Carmen Garcia, Choua Vue, Madelyn James, Becky McBroom, Nubia Rodriguez, Kathy Villano, Joy Bah, Sergio Hernandez, Michelle Turner,
- Grand Victoria proposal
  - The joint GV proposal for ELC staffing from IAFC, Ounce, Voices, INCCRRA was discussed. The Grand Victoria proposal was submitted in October, and we are now waiting to hear back.
- Discussion: Principles and Practices Subcommittee goals and priorities
  - Though some strategic planning items had been discussed last meeting, no work plan had yet been determined
  - The Erikson “Going Above and Beyond” report and its focus on family and community engagement was utilized to prompt discussion
    - One theme supported in the focus groups (conducted for the Erikson report) is that staff and teachers enter the EC field without formal training in family engagement. This training is lacking in higher education, but we also see resources such as Gateways credentials on family engagement that are not geared towards teachers.
    - A question was raised about whether or not directors/supervisors are solidly committed to family and community engagement. And whether directors or teachers are appropriate place to focus training efforts .Though director support is, not always present, their buy-in is crucial to effective wider engagement.
  - Community Engagement
    - The concern was raised that FCE is often boiled down to simply “family engagement,” leaving the “community engagement” piece neglected. A mention was made that the Erikson report takes this into account. Discussion ensued that there are different conceptualizations of community engagement and perhaps a unified definition is needed to rally around. A desire was voiced for more info on best practices surrounding community engagement.
    - One alternate and more holistic model is Head Start, which begins at the outset with a community needs assessment, thereby framing the goals of the program within the larger community context. An interest was voiced in framing community collaborations, for example, this way.
    - Members reiterated that community engagement is difficult to strive for without trained staff.
    - Several buckets of follow-up work resulted from the discussion on CE:
      - Research into professional development opportunities as well as field of higher education to learn more about equipping staff for effective CE
      - How do we define CE? What is the range and scope of it? What does the research say?
      - How do we combine this discussion with that of the systems-building folks as well as those working on culturally competent family and community engagement?
    - One item that will be looked into is the Awards of Excellence being offered to home-based providers.
      - The observation was voiced that the Awards of Excellence are not inclusive of all types of programs. Additionally, it is difficult for some providers to understand how to apply and enter system (e.g., school-based Head Start sites)
    - Mention was made of a valuable new measure, the Family Provider Teacher Relationship Quality (FPTRQ) measure that assesses the parent-provider relationship.
      - This measure could be used to assess preparedness for Awards of Excellence.
      - This measure will be made publicly available on the Office of Head Start website in December 2014, but could be made more readily available through other forums.

- The measure can be found at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/research/project/development-of-a-measure-of-family-and-provider-teacher-relationship-quality-fptrq>
  
- Next steps
  - Co-chairs will review member comments and create a draft work plan, to be circulated for comments and feedback prior to next meeting
  
- Upcoming Meeting Dates
  - Full FCE Committee... January 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 (Wed, 11am-1pm)
  - P/P Subcommittee... February 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 (Thurs, 10am-12pm)
  
  - Full FCE Committee... April 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 (Tues, 11am-1pm)
  - P/P Subcommittee... May 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 (Thurs, 10am-12pm)