

Early Learning Advisory Committee
Minutes
November 13, 2015
Government Center – Conference Room 4

Present:

Melanie Brizzi
Charlie Geier
Robin Atkins
Christopher Stokes
M. Cindy Frey
Connie Sherman

Absent:

Kevin Bain

Guests:

Beth Barrett

I. Call to Order

Melanie called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm and welcomed everyone in Kevin's absence. Melanie explained the two year term agreement for the ELAC appointed members has expired and thankfully, chairman Kevin Bain has agreed to chair the committee for a second 2 year term along with committee members herself, Charlie Geier and Connie Sherman. Melanie welcomed new members Robin Atkins, Indiana Head Start Collaboration Director, and Cindy Frey, President of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce and asked each to introduce themselves. Christopher Stokes from Eli Lilly also joined the meeting during workgroup reports and introduced himself.

II. Review of Minutes

Committee reviewed the September 11, 2015 minutes. No additions or corrections. Charlie motioned to approve. Robin seconded. Minutes were approved.

III. Workgroup Updates:

Each month the seven workgroups report out on their focus/accomplishments for the past month and summarize the workgroup's priorities for the next month or quarter. They also identify and inform ELAC of any upcoming recommendations for upcoming ELAC meetings to assist in planning of the agenda for future meetings.

- I. *Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes*** Megan Purcell, co-chair, reported the workgroup continued their subcommittee work on statewide assessment practices and Indiana Head Start outcomes and should be able to share their findings after the first of the year. The entire workgroup spent most of their November meeting studying the EEMG evaluation report to identify key points to add the ELAC Annual Report in December.
- II. *Funding Streams*** Ted Maple, co-chair, reported the group met in November to discuss the dissemination of the Funding Memorandum. The group also discussed the "Cost of Early Education" project, an opportunity to work with CEELO (the Center for Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes) funded by the US Department of Education to pilot a cost-quality tool. This project will help Indiana determine the

true cost of scaling up preschool, and will be a good starting point for a future cost of care study. A small team will work with CELO to move the process forward. The tool looks at different quality factors and has ability to compare models which will be a good planning tool for the state and eventually for providers.

Discussion:

1. Can this tool be customized?

This is a sophisticated excel tool that can bring those quality features in and put a price to each and designed for mixed delivery system comparing prices at different auspices.

2. In CCDBG reauthorization, states will be able to use cost study as opposed to a market survey to set reimbursement rates – so this work will be a prelude to a future cost study.

3. Currently tool does not cover 0-3 but could be customized.

III. Workforce and Professional Development Dianna Wallace, co-chair, reported the group reviewed their September work on workforce supply and expected future demand. The group developed updates for the ELAC annual report, and plans to compile a one page summary within the next two weeks. They will also provide information from the Higher Ed Inventory for the ELAC dashboard.

IV. Provider Participation and Advancement Melanie, co-chair, reported this group has taken on the task developing tools to support local early childhood coalitions as a means of building infrastructure and support for improved access to higher quality programs at the local level. The workgroup has been working to identify the baseline measure of the number of local coalitions in place currently and to understand the scope of the work of each. Lucinda Nord from the Indiana United Way spoke at the last meeting to discuss different types of groups currently in place at the local level. The workgroup continues to review ways to collect information on local work in an effective and efficient manner that is not burdensome to the coalitions themselves but provides critical information to key stakeholders. The group will next review the coalition building tools that have been developed around best practices for collaboration to identify currently available resources and any gaps that exist so that a comprehensive “toolkit” of resources can be made available at the local level.

V. Data Coordination Charlie, co-chair, thanked John Pierce, committee member, for leading last meeting in his absence. The group continues their work on the data privacy whitepaper. The need for this information continues to grow as more groups ask for guidance to assure FERPA statutes are followed. The group is looking at data dashboards that currently exist within the state and nationally that could support local programs in making data driven decisions. This group is reviewing and making recommendations for the ELAC data dashboard.

VI. Family Engagement John Pierce, co-chair, reported this group is currently working on three areas of focus –

- An electronic family engagement toolkit survey for feedback from OMW and EEMG providers on the value, ease of use and suggestions for improvements to the Family Engagement Toolkit.

- Reviewing a definition of home visiting –Stacy Herald and Mary Ann West will be invited to attend the next workgroup meeting to discuss the work the Indiana MIECHV Program is doing on home visiting. Early Learning Indiana is also working on this and will be included.
- Working in partnership with OECOSL and IDOE to develop a family friendly version of the Early Childhood Foundations and developing recommendations on how the family version of the Foundations might be used and disseminated.

VII. *Child Development and Well Being* Carrie Bale, co-chair, reported the group has been researching various state/national initiatives that are underway that focus on early childhood health. The group would like to raise awareness on the importance of developmental screening as this topic has not received adequate attention within the state. They will work on providing recommendations on the policy needed for CCDBG reauthorization in regards to developmental screening and also recommendations for nutrition and physical activity and social-emotional wellbeing for consideration for rule re-promulgation.

IV. 2016 ELAC Annual Report Amanda Lopez reported ELAC is required by statute to provide a needs assessment and recommendations to the governor each June. The committee felt it would be more efficient to provide year end information at the beginning of the calendar year. Currently data is being collected concerning the state of Early Learning around key indicators and should have a draft to share next month and release by end of December.

Discussion

1. What is the length of this report?

There was a “lighter” version submitted for June deadline - the last report was lengthier due to the amount of tables and appendixes. IACCRR has developed an online dashboard for local level data and we may be able to shorten the length of the report by referring to this interactive website. The report will contain an executive summary.

2. Is there a timeline for workgroups to submit information for the report?

By the end of the first week of December

V. CCDBG (Child Care Development Block Grant) State Plan Update Melanie presented to the group the outline of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan for FFY2016-18. The CCDGG Act of 2014 reauthorizes and significantly revises the purpose of the CCDF program and requirements, emphasizing a two generational focus on poverty reduction.

- Goal: improve the health, safety and quality of child care & improve low-income working families access to child care assistance and care that promotes positive child development
- Significant revisions include minimum 12 month eligibility periods, health and safety standards for providers, training requirements for providers, monitoring requirements and increased consumer education dissemination
- Some requirements have specific dates for deadlines for compliance- if no date given, must become effective 9-30-16.

- Process: the State Plan is the mechanism for the federal Office of Child Care to determine state compliance with the requirements of the CCDBG. The plan covering a 3 year period and must be submitted by 3-1-16
- Pre-Print: the plan is submitted electronically in pre-print format – a required tool for states to use to describe their plans. This will be used to track and access progress towards compliance and the need for technical assistance, if any.

Melanie spent time giving an overview each of the 8 Sections of the plan explaining the OECOSL will be consulting with a wide range of partners including ELAC.

Sections of the State Plan include:

- 1.0 CCDF Leadership and Coordination
- 2.0 Promote family engagement through outreach and community education
- 3.0 Provide stable child care financial assistance to families
- 4.0 Ensure equal access to high quality child care for low income children
- 5.0 Standards and monitoring processes to ensure health and safety
- 6.0 Recruit and retain a qualified and effective child care workforce
- 7.0 Support continuous quality improvement
- 8.0 Ensure grantee program integrity and accountability

Melanie then specifically discussed the details of the first section of Indiana's Plan.

Section one includes the following:

- Identification of the Lead agency
- Partners with whom the Lead Agency collaborates, coordinates, and has communicated with in regards t the State Plan. Note: Public hearings will be held in February and a draft will be posted online for public comment.
- Details on how the state utilizes funding including any layering/braiding of funding
- Details on Public Private Partnerships in which the Lead Agency participates
- Details on how the Lead Agency coordinates with local CCR&R agencies
- The State's Disaster Preparedness Plans

Subsequent sections will be discussed at future meetings.

Discussion on the challenges/opportunities of CCDBG reauthorization of 2014

Indiana's strengths include the coordination that ELAC provides, state funded pre-k initiatives (On My Way and EEMG), PTQ growth and effectiveness, tiered reimbursements, criminal history checks, recent statutory changes on key health and safety issues

Challenges include the changes to the Criminal History checks requirements

There are two significant policy changes that will become effective soon and will greatly benefit families receiving CCDF subsidies– change to 12 month eligibility (from 6 months) and gradual phase out to eliminate the cliff effect.

VI. Early Education Matching Grant Update Melanie reported the RFF for the next round of this funding was recently released. These grants have been very effective at

building the capacity of high quality programs and initiating partnerships at the local level. The RFF is posted online and applications are due to the OECOSL by June 15, 2016. Interest is growing for these grants as OECOSL has already received 10 letters of intent to apply. A couple of changes within the RFF include the requirement to demonstrate collaboration at the local level including the opportunity to file a collaborative proposal and the extension of the grant term to two years. More information is on the OECOSL website.

VII. On My Way Pre-K Pilot Update Melanie also gave an update on the On My Way Pre-K Pilot by telling a story of how this program has impacted a child and family in Vanderburgh County. 2300 4-year olds from low income families are currently enrolled who would not have had access to high quality pre-k programs without OMW. These children are being served by 217 high quality programs across the 5 pilot counties. Programs are completing their initial ISTAR-KR assessment and entering attendance data in the provider portal. This program has highlighted the need for state and local level early childhood infrastructure. Providers have been given the newly printed Family Engagement toolkit and copies were shared with ELAC members. OECOSL has been debriefing with county teams and will be updating applications, parent acceptance packets and marketing materials. OECOSL plans to open applications in January for the next year. OECOSL and Purdue University has been convening local meetings with K-12 schools to have also been meeting with the local schools to discuss their role in the longitudinal study.

VIII. Infant Toddler Policy Brief Presentation Stephan A Viehweg, Riley Child Development Center, and Lisa Henley, IACCRR, presented to the group on the work of the Happy Babies Group. Indiana was one of three states to receive technical assistance from Zero to Three through funding from the Kellogg Foundation. The cross-agency workgroup established four priority areas:

1. Develop an infant toddler certificate
2. Strengthen family engagement in infant/toddler programs
3. Increase collaboration between early childhood and health systems
4. Focus early childhood messaging on key inf/tod issues through an issue brief/call to action

The brief contains seven overarching recommendations. Each was discussed and short term accomplishments and long term strategies were reviewed.

1. Promote family well being and support parents as their child's first teacher
2. Create awareness around toxic stress
3. Create awareness around word gap
4. Ensure affordable, accessible, high quality early care and education for infants and toddlers and their families
5. Identify developmental delays earlier
6. Improve coordination and collaboration between all systems touching children birth to age 3 and their families
7. Provide cross-sector professional development and competency based qualifications for the early childhood workforce.

Discussion:

1. There is an ELAC workgroup currently working on developmental screenings
2. This intentional thinking about infants and toddlers – with ELAC’s focus been on pre-k, infant toddlers need a vocal champion throughout all the ELAC workgroups – add members to ask “what about the babies?”
3. The funding stream workgroup has had conversations about costs.
4. How do we embed this infant/toddler work across all the ELAC workgroups?
5. There are pockets throughout the state doing great things – need to build systems to expand these efforts.
6. ELAC will assist with the dissemination of the brief once completed including posting it on the ELAC webpage.
7. Next month look how to embed strategies within ELAC workgroups and Steve and Lisa were invited to attend that discussion.

- IX. Adjournment** Motion to adjourn was made by Charlie. Robin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Next meeting date – Friday, December 11, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST, Conference Room 4.