

Early Learning Advisory Committee
Minutes
December 11, 2015
Government Center – Conference Room 4

Present:

Melanie Brizzi
Robin Atkins
M. Cindy Frey
Connie Sherman

Absent:

Kevin Bain
Charlie Geier
Christopher Stokes

Guests:

Beth Barrett

I. Call to Order

Melanie called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm and welcomed everyone in chairman's absence.

II. Review of Minutes

Committee was unable to review and approve the November 13, 2015 minutes as there was not a quorum present. Minutes will be sent to committee members for approval and posted online <http://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4842.htm> as soon as 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 future ELAC meetings to assist in planning the agenda.

- I. *Workforce and Professional Development*** - Workgroup did not meet and had no report to provide the Committee.
- II. *Provider Participation and Advancement*** - Workgroup did not meet and had no report to provide the Committee.
- III. *Funding Streams*** –Ted Maple, co-chair, reported that while the full workgroup did not meet in December, there was a sub-committee meeting to discuss using a cost of quality tool calculator in partnership with the Center for Evaluating Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) and Third Sector Intelligence. The sub-committee, consisting of representatives from OECOSL, IDOE, ELI, and Transform Consulting Group, had a conference call with CEELO and Third Sector Intelligence to decide next steps of this cost tool for Indiana. The tool will initially allow Indiana to look at different cost models for funding preschool programs . The tool helps states determine the true cost of preschool programs based on various quality factors, program settings, standards, and other cost components. The tool could be customized in the future to include costs for infants and toddlers. The workgroup will provide the sub-committee with research questions to answer using the cost tool.
- IV. *Family Engagement*** – John Pierce, Co-chair, reported at the workgroup's last meeting they heard a presentation about MIECHV (Maternal Infant Early Child

Home Visiting) and reviewed Indiana Home Visiting Advisory Board's work on drafting a new definition of home visiting. Their February meeting will focus on developing a definition of home visiting and hope to present that recommended definition to ELAC during the February 2016 meeting.

Discussion:

1. Has the workgroup looked at the diversity of home visiting and are all groups represented? Workgroup's definition focuses on evidence based programs whose primary role is to perform home visiting not like Early Childhood programs who perform home visiting.

The workgroup is also discussing ways to partner with IDOE and possibly ELI's Partnerships for Early Learners initiative on developing a family friendly version of the Early Childhood Foundations. John also reported the ELAC Child Development and Well Being workgroup has requested the Family Engagement workgroup update the FE toolkit with information about the importance of having a developmental screen completed for children at specific age milestones.

- V. *Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes*** – Megan Purcell, Co-chair, reported the workgroup met yesterday and mainly discussed the summary of Indiana University's evaluation of the Early Education Matching Grant (EEMG) program, which will be incorporated into the December ELAC report once completed. The workgroup also provided additional input on the Summary of Public School's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) practices and this document will be provided for incorporation into the new ELAC website debuting in January. Megan also reported that the workgroup is pursuing several options to secure child outcome data from Indiana Head Start programs. Since Head Start programs report directly to the federal government and no state agency, this has been more a difficult challenge. However, the workgroup is making some progress on being able to potentially gather some Head Start data. Megan also asked about the recommendation made a year ago to ELAC to become a charter state with a group of states developing a KRA/KEA. The workgroup is requesting direction to continue assistance in this area.

Discussion:

1. Robin asked about the work with Head Start since she is a new member. Megan explained that the Indiana Head Start State Association distributed surveys to Program Directors to get information on assessments being used and if they have connections with school systems for kindergarten entry data on Head Start children or 3rd grade ISTEP data for Head Start children. The workgroup will revisit what we're doing to get this information. Right now most Head Start programs are unable to track students longitudinally into public schools. Robin plans to discuss more about the workgroup's work in this area with Megan since one priority of the Head Start State Collaboration Office is the collection of data and how to bring that into the system. This may also be good to coordinate with the Data Coordination workgroup.

- VI. *Data Coordination*** – John Pierce also reported for this workgroup in Charlie's absence. The workgroup received an update about IACCRR's real-time, online data center, (<http://datacenter.iaccrr.org/>) and reviewed the reauthorization language of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act – now known as Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), replacing No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) - that

Early Learning Advisory Committee was signed into law yesterday. John reported this the new legislation is exciting as early Learning is embedded within this new Act. The workgroup is also possibly looking at assisting communities with local “dashboard” data and will work to align this work with the Provider Participation Workgroup on community coalition building. John also announced that the workgroup will continue to work with INK (Indiana Network of Knowledge) on developing a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), and the next workgroup meeting will focus on the design of the system.

Discussion:

1. Melanie reported on the soft launch of IACCRR’s data dashboard and the intersection of the Provider Participation Workgroup and Data Coordination Workgroup. IACCRR will be adding data fields to track for more of the local collaborative work in the Child Care Aware data system.

VII. *Child Development and Well Being* – Connie Sherman, Co-chair, reported that the workgroup has been looking at developmental screening particularly for infants and toddlers and nutritional and physical fitness outcomes for young children. In the short-term, the workgroup is developing suggestions for consideration in licensing rules for centers, homes and provider eligibility standards. The workgroup wants to assure families understand the importance of these timely developmental screenings. This workgroup may need to work with the Family Engagement workgroup.

Discussion:

1 Melanie brought up a current initiative called “Help Me Grow” that is currently in 23 other states. John Pierce and Dr. Nancy Swigonski are leading a cross-sector group to discuss some prior work done by UWCI to develop a “call center” like 2-1-1 with a subset of child development staff to work with parents and help them connect to community resources. This initiative is to work on universal screening of children as early as possible and a centralized place to connect parents to services. The group is assessing Indiana’s readiness and if we should invite Help Me Grow to visit. The estimated cost is \$2,500/year to be part of Help Me Grow, and the state would be expected to send a representative to their National Convention to learn from others. The group is in the exploration stage, and one requirement is a designated neutral entity to act as a convener and facilitator to identify an overseeing agency. The workgroup asked if ELAC could be that entity to get this going? The Committee suggested that the best fit might be the Child Development and Well Being workgroup, especially since several members of that workgroup are a part of this convening group.

Discussion:

1. Would National Help Me Grow be willing to present to ELAC?
Yes, definitely. They had a list of several things that need to be in place and Indiana is in a good position having most of those items. What we are not doing is gathering them into a structured system. We would also need funding – key is it needs to be sustainable.

2. This meeting brought up there is much work being done but there is no framework – whether it be this framework or something else. This has been found in work with developmental screening.

3. Need to look at baseline and find out what is being done – Melanie asked Connie to discuss their workgroup, Child Development and Well Being, taking on this project at the January kick-off meeting.

IV. CCDBG (Child Care Development Block Grant) State Plan Update

Melanie presented to the workgroup the next section of Indiana's state plan. The state plan is now due every three years, and Indiana needs to submit our plan by March 1, 2016. At the last meeting we discussed section 1- CCDF Leadership and Coordination. This meeting we will discuss both section (2) Promote Family Engagement through Outreach and Consumer Education and section (3) Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families. Once the state plan is finalized, it will be posted online (by February 1st), and open forums will be held in three areas of the state for public comment..

Section 2

Melanie explained that Section 2 of the state plan requires states to design the child care system to promote seamless linkages to useful information using many opportunities to engage and inform families. Parents as child care consumers need information to make informed choices on services that best suit their needs. States should use information to promote involvement by families in their child's development in child care settings.

States are required to disseminate information to CCDF parents, providers and the general public on the following:

1. Availability of child care assistance
2. Quality of providers
3. Other programs for which parent's might apply including TANF, Head Start, SNAP, WIC, CACFP, children's health insurance
4. IDEA programs and services
5. research and best practices in child development
6. State policies on behavioral and early childhood mental health including policies on expulsion from CCDF programs

States must also make available:

- Information on the health and safety of children in child care settings including inspection reports using a consumer friendly website
- This must include provider specific information- including inspection history and substantiated complaints and corrective actions taken
- Aggregate information on annual number of deaths, serious injuries and substantiated complaints of abuse and neglect within child care settings
- The licensing process including the process for completing background checks and monitoring/inspections

IN is in compliance with many of the requirements in section 2 already:

- Information on CCDF and other resources is currently available on the In.gov website including TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, IDEA part C, development milestones, parent and provider resources
- CCDF Intake Agents have MOUs in place to share this information with their clients during eligibility determination
- 2-1-1 provides statewide resources for families in need

- FSSA has created a Resources Guidebook to be used by stakeholders to assist in locating needed resources for families
- Current work includes revision of in.gov website to provide more information in a more comprehensive, user friendly way, dissemination of the Resources Guidebook,
- Make information available about current research and best practice on child development – while this is not user friendly now, website updates to in.gov will improve this and resources such as the Family Engagement Framework and the Early Learning Guidelines continue to be utilized to take research to practice and promote understanding of best practice

Some areas IN will be working on to comply are:

- Coordination with other partners to promote access to developmental screenings
 - Current improvements underway- continue to expand on partnerships with First Steps and Head Start through “Welcoming all Children”, the CCRR Inclusion Specialists, CCR&R trainings on screenings and child development, and the EHS-Child Care Partnerships
 - Additionally, work with the ELAC to build the infrastructure necessary to link families to screenings and interventions as necessary
- Information on Provider History
 - IN already maintains and makes public inspection reports, substantiated complaints, and corrective actions on the childcarefinder.in.gov website
 - Future enhancements- OECOSL will be adding aggregate annual data on deaths, serious injuries and substantiated abuse/neglect occurring within child care to the in.gov website
- Information for families for whom English is not their first language
 - IN currently funds the CCR&R Hispanic Outreach Specialists for services to Spanish speaking families and providers. Additionally, we utilize translation services for families speaking other languages.
 - Ongoing work- continue to translate materials and provide supports in a variety of languages as feasible.

Section 3

- Section 3 requires states to provide stable child care financial assistance to families. Indiana already meets many of these requirements including:
 1. timeliness of making an eligibility determination
 2. Coordination with TANF Impact program
 3. Children with special needs are a priority area
 4. flexibility in recertification
 5. Sliding fee scale for co-pay, waive co-pay below 100% FPL
 6. Waive income requirements for licensed foster parents

Upcoming changes will include:

- Graduated Phase Out beginning the first of March
- Fluctuations in Earnings – will be looking at income policies for seasonal workers, etc to add policies and software changes
- Move to 12-month eligibility beginning March 1st

V. Infant Toddler Presentation Follow-Up by Happy Babies Brain Trust Workgroup

ELAC invited back Lisa Henley and Steve Viehweg with the Happy Babies Brain Trust Workgroup, who presented the IT Policy Brief at last month's ELAC meeting, to discuss how ELAC can take their recommendations and embed them in the workgroups.

Melanie first began by congratulating the Happy Babies group for winning the "Heroes For Recovery Mental Health and Addiction Prevention Team" award for their hard work and dedication to write and publish the Infant Toddler Issue Brief. Lisa commented that they were the only Early Childhood group to be nominated as all others worked with teens and older adults. Happy Babies assured them if their work with infants and toddlers is done correctly, it will lessen the work necessary with teens and adults! Steve shared his experience at the Zero to Three National Training Conference recently held, and the focus on serious mental health issues of young children.

The Infant Toddler Issue Brief contains seven overarching recommendations. The first 3 recommendations were discussed to see how ELAC could support them:

1. Promote family well being and support parents as their child's first teacher
Discussion surrounded home visiting and what data was needed to support. There is currently a Federal grant opportunity looking at long term strategies and what Indiana could apply for support. There was also discussion around Parents As Teachers and increasing their involvement on committees.
2. Create awareness around toxic stress
Discussion centered around the IT Mental Health Endorsement, and Steve explained the model and training available on toxic stress. There is a need to identify what is currently offered locally and use the words toxic stress. There may be a possible collaboration with Head Start Training and Technical Assistance center and trainings they offer.
3. Create awareness around word gap
This could be imbedded through many systems. They also discussed integrating family literacy in quality early childhood programs and coordinating efforts to get the word out. Many great things are happening locally.

The following suggestions were given to the group:

1. Discuss the issue brief at the January kick-off meeting;
2. Co-chairs of each ELAC workgroup could see how they could ensure a focus on infants and toddlers in their work plans;
3. Some key questions could be developed for the workgroups to discuss within the January workgroup planning sessions;
4. Every workgroup could have one member from the Happy Babies Brain Trust workgroup participate as a content infant toddler person.

VI. Early Education Matching Grant Update

Melanie reported that the Request for Funding (RFF) is currently open. OECOSL has received over 40 letters of Intent to Apply. The deadline is January 15, 2016. We are working on setting up scoring evaluators and continuing to support current EEMG grantees.

Discussion:

1. Are the list of Intent to Apply public? That answer is not known, but we will check to see.

VII. Proposed ELAC Strategic Plan/Logic Model and ELAC Annual Report Update

Melanie asked Amanda Lopez of Transform Consulting Group to combine these reports for updates to the Committee.

Amanda reported that the workgroup co-chairs have been working to develop a 5-year strategic plan that will be shared with the committee electronically. We would like to share it at the ELAC kickoff meeting in January with all workgroup members. The strategic plan logic model contains key outcomes and strategies to move the work of ELAC forward.

The ELAC Annual Report is a statutory requirement due by June each calendar year. This does not fall within a time that legislators are in session, so the June report was a light update with a more detailed report planned prior to the start of session in January. The ELAC Annual Report will include a dashboard of key indicators tracked over time reporting on important indicators critical to the work of ELAC. Each workgroup was asked to provide recommendations, and the ELAC Guiding Team discussed and reviewed the recommendations. We are currently in compliance with statutory reporting and will submit the 2016 report in early January. The June 2015 report had a lot of appendices with local county data that is now available via IACCRR's data center, so the new report will primarily include state-level data.

VIII. On My Way Pre-K Pilot Update

Melanie reported that applications will reopen for the 2016-17 school year on January 13, 2016 and will be due by March 26, 2016, giving families nine weeks to apply. If applications exceed the number of grants available, a randomized lottery will be held the first week in April. OECOSL is currently working on updating marketing materials, radio spots and community outreach plans, and the five pilot County Project Managers have been very helpful getting ready. We anticipate that the same number of children will be served since the same funding is available. However, it will depend on the family's needs for full-time or part-time programs. Applications are always available for qualified programs wishing to become an On My Way Pre-K approved provider, and there are current grant opportunities available through Early Learning Indiana for quality/capacity building for programs.

IX. Next Meeting Date – Thursday, January 14, 2016 10am-4pm

ELAC's next meeting in January will be the annual kick-off meeting and will replace all workgroup meetings. The Committee and all workgroup members will be invited to attend with an exciting agenda planned. This meeting will be held at Wayne Township Preschool in Indianapolis.

X. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.