

Early Learning Advisory Committee
Minutes
March 13, 2015

Call to Order 1:05 pm

Present:

Kevin Bain
Charlie Geier
Melanie Brizzi
Connie Sherman
Tammy Veselsky
Alonzo Weems
Guests:
Beth Barrett

Absent:

John Burnett
Beckie Minglin

Kevin called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

I. Review of Minutes

No additions or corrections. Charlie motioned to approve. Melanie seconded. Minutes were approved.

II. Workgroup Updates:

Funding Streams – Ted Maple presented on behalf of co-chairs Jo Taylor and James Betley. Group met yesterday and key deliverable is the Early Learning Funding memo that summarizes all funding available in the state which is targeted for early learning. The draft is meant to be comprehensive, including various government programs, philanthropy and private pay. James and Amanda Lopez have taken the lead in preparing the draft. The group is also looking into how early learning organizations assess effectiveness and efficiency in spending. Another key area within the report is the blending/braiding of funding especially as it relates to Early Head Start Partnerships, On My Way Pre-K, and the Indy Preschool Program.

Family Engagement– Michael Conn-Powers presented on behalf of co-chairs Keith Reissaus and Chris Whitmire. Michael reported the February meeting was a review of the finalized framework and definitions, as well as continuing work on the development of the family engagement toolkit for providers. The group has reviewed multiple tools and completed crosswalks of self-assessment indicators, developed a toolkit format aligned to the 4 levels of Paths to QUALITY™, and agreed to coordinate the workgroup work with the family engagement project led by Michael and the IU Early Childhood Center.

Workforce & Professional Development Update – Co-chair Dianna Wallace reported this group has completed a first draft of the workforce supply and compensation data analysis. The Indiana Higher Education Inventory survey results benefited from a high level of participation. The workgroup is also on their third draft of a teacher career pathway infographic. This group will not meet in April but will have an extended meeting in May and should have a preliminary report from the Higher Ed Inventory in May. The Berkley

principals will present at the June ELAC meeting. The Higher Ed Inventory will also be useful information to inform the ongoing work on family engagement.

Data Coordination and System Integration – John Pierce presented on behalf of co-chairs Charlie Geier and Karen Comer. John reported Charlie represents this workgroup on the Indiana Network of Knowledge (INK) research group. Jeff Hudnell, director of INK, attended the workgroup meeting and is a collaborative partner of the work. Michael Conn-Powers attended their meeting and presented the ISTAR-KR data and his preliminary findings (to be presented today to ELAC). Stephen Reynolds, an attorney with Ice-Miller group, shared his expertise and provided important information on data privacy and transparency. His presentation provided the group with the vital information to ensure that FERPA and other regulations are followed to assure the privacy of families and children. This group will work on a one page summary on privacy as background for the other workgroups.

Evaluation of Child Outcomes – Co-chair Kevin Bain reported for this group. Yesterday, the group met and the group was given a presentation on the CLASS assessment (a classroom interaction observational tool). This is important to this group as this assessment is a component of both the EEMG and OMW grant programs.

The group also reviewed data posted by group members as background information for their 3 priority deliverables:

1. 1-2 page concept paper that defines as the various types of child outcome assessments available and their characteristics, with the hope of driving consensus in how each might be used in Indiana
2. Gather a baseline of local assessment tools that could inform state-wide assessment practices as there is no current repository of information for the 92 counties– looking at cost and feasibility of how we can collect this data
3. Indiana specific Head Start outcomes (to see if our state outcomes are different than the national picture, and the extent to which Indiana HS has an impact on child outcomes)

The workgroup split into 3 subcommittees to work on these over the next several months and will report back at the April meeting of their progress and findings.

Child Development and Well-being – Connie Sherman introduced Carrie Bales as a new co-chair for this workgroup. Carrie then presented the workgroup summary to the ELAC. This workgroup decided to set areas of focus and timelines for initial goals from the January kick-off meeting. The group will first focus on developing a comprehensive definition of children’s health (prenatal to age 8). The group will research existing definitions and come up with a comprehensive definition for Indiana including oral health, mental health, and nutrition – the entire gamut. Carrie reported the group hopes to present to the ELAC in April that “Indiana” definition. Next, the group will be looking at the current data and work currently being done in other groups around the state pertaining to children’s health and how this aligns with this workgroup. Carrie reported the group looks to focus on mental health, which will undoubtedly lead to a discussion on preschool expulsion, developmental screenings, and recommendations for the incorporation of children’s health parameters into Indiana Paths to QUALITY rating system.

A question was asked about current Indiana childhood testing for mental health. There is an existing set of Indiana Infant Toddler Mental Health Competencies, and a member of the workgroup has expertise with this. It was also commented that Michigan has been doing lots of work in this area and the group will look into their findings.

Provider Participation and Advancement – Melanie Brizzi reported this workgroup met March 9th. The group looked at the additional pathways they have been working on for schools entering PTQ. It was reaffirmed with representatives from charter school authorizing bodies that charter schools do not need an additional pathway into PTQ as the charter does not cover pre-k. It is best for them to partner with a community based program or choose to license a preschool classroom to enter PTQ. The group will be working with the PTQ Marketing committee to clearly articulate the pathways and improve marketing to public schools through school-friendly marketing. Private schools do not need a pathway – they can enter as registered ministries or through licensure or accreditation for On My Way. Next the group will look at the potential barriers for participation and advancement. We want to align with existing PTQ workgroups and Early Learning Indiana Five Strand Project.

Kevin congratulated all workgroups and commented he finds it gratifying to listen to the progress and work being done by approximately 140 volunteers who are passionate about this work and committed to moving it forward. This work is not going without notice.

III. ISTAR-KR Presentation –Kevin introduced the group to Michael Conn-Powers who presented to the group his findings from reviewing 6 years of ISTAR-KR data. Charlie explained he has been working with Michael for about a year with the data for children in 3rd grade who completed the ISTAR KR in preschool. This has led to new reports and gives us a current longitudinal study to learn from. (Presentation attached)

IV. CCDBG Updates – Kevin asked Melanie to report on any new updates since last month regarding the potential involvement of ELAC. Melanie reported we heard this week the state plan is not due until March 1, 2016 so we have time to put together a writing schedule and will let ELAC know when feedback will be necessary. The current state plan will be extended to cover this time frame. Timelines for standards have not changed and we are still working to make sure Indiana is in compliance.

V. Early Education Matching Grant

OECOSL released a second round of grants and we have received back proposals with \$1.2 million total funding proposed from 10 new applicants and 14 renewal grants. Year one had 30 grantees but remember programs within the pilot counties were not able to renew their grant as they will now be offering On My Way Pre-K in their programs. ELAC has a phone conference scheduled to discuss the scored applications and make decisions on the awards. OECOSL has renewed IU's contract to continue the evaluation for EEMG for year 2.

VI. On My Way Pre-K Pilot

Cohort one total enrollment ended up at 415 total children enrolled across the 4 pilot counties that started in January. Families chose from every eligible provider type. As of today we have 133 eligible OMW providers. For cohort one, we have obligated over \$1.3 million to serve those 415 children.

Applications began a couple of weeks ago for cohort two to begin in August. We have received 269 thus far- without the inclusion of applicants from the first cohort who applied but their children were actually only 3 years old. We have contacted them to assure they are still interested and would like to be entered in this next cohort's lottery. Radio ads will begin April 1st in both English and Spanish. Marketing materials are also available to the pilot counties. Focus right now is on family recruitment as lottery applications will be taken until April 30th and the lottery will occur the first week in May. Those families will be notified that same week and we are looking to serve approximately 1600 children. There will be a budget for each county. OECOSL has also been assisting the counties in capacity building with eligible providers in their community. In partnership with IACCRR, United Way of Central Indiana and Early Learning Indiana, OECOSL offered capacity building grants within the 5 pilot counties to providers to assist them in purchasing needed items to help them increase capacity or program quality. 78 applications were received across all 5 counties. We were able to award 40 grants. The state had \$300,000.00 available for grants and the partners were able to give an additional \$250,000.00. IACRR will administer the grants. If all these grants are successful, we will add an additional 586 high quality pre-k seats in these programs for On My Way Pre-K. The focus on these grants was on increasing capacity. Funds must be expended by the end of the state fiscal year. Now the work will begin to get all this capacity building work done in time to enroll families for the fall start. Families will receive their grants the first week of May and enrollment will need to be completed by July 31st with the providers chosen. Melanie explained to the group the process and lessons learned from the first cohort; it is estimated we will need over 5000 lottery applications across the 5 counties to fill with qualified applicants all the estimated 1600 slots for the fall cohort.

Additional applications will also be needed in Marion County due to the city's supplemental program. Most of the guidelines are the same as the state's program. Indy PSP has the opportunity to serve 3 year olds and increase their federal poverty level eligibility to 185% if funds remain after serving the lower levels. United Way of Central Indiana is the administrator of this project and the state has been partnering to cobrand the materials – making for just one application for families. State seats for 4 year olds will be filled first and then the city's program will enroll others. Provider eligibility is the same also.

VII. Other Business

Kevin asked Charlie to give the group an update on the Foundations updates. Charlie reported the current foundations are out of date as they now need to be aligned with the new Indiana Academic Standards instead of the Common Core Standards. Charlie explained the updates needed such as conceptual language instead of a laundry list of skills. Several groups of individuals have worked and reviewed standards and they will be reviewed by CEELo as a third party evaluator. The standards will then be brought to ELAC for approval. Timelines were discussed with the goal of bringing to ELAC in May or June.

Closing:

Charlie motioned to end the meeting. Melanie seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2:57 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 10, 2015 from 1-3 pm.