

Early Learning Advisory Committee
Minutes
May 8, 2015
Government Center – Conference Room #4

Call to Order 1:05 pm

Present:

Kevin Bain
Charlie Geier
Melanie Brizzi
Tammy Veselsky
John Burnett
Connie Sherman
Guests:
Beth Barrett

Absent:

Alonzo Weems

Kevin called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm and welcomed everyone.

I. Review of Minutes

Review of March 13, 2015 minutes as there was no meeting in April. No additions or corrections. Charlie motioned to approve. Melanie seconded. Minutes were approved.

II. Workgroup Updates:

Child Development and Well-being – Connie Sherman reported that the Workgroup met in March and April with the goal of coming to consensus on a recommended definition of Children’s Health in Indiana, as well as developing a white paper to highlight the importance of health on Kindergarten Readiness. Outside reviews were conducted to determine how other states define Children’s Health. The Recommendation and White Paper will be presented today by Nancy Ward.

Nancy Ward, Workgroup committee member, presented the recommended Indiana definition of child health to ELAC:

The Child Development and Well-Being workgroup recommends that Indiana adopt the World Health Organization definition of child health:

*“Child health is a state of **physical, mental, intellectual, social and emotional well-being** and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Healthy children live in **families, environments, and communities** that provide them with the opportunity to reach their fullest developmental potential.”*

After discussion, Kevin asked for a motion to approve the definition. Charlie motioned to approve. Melanie seconded. Motion was approved. (Recommendation and supporting materials are attached)

Amanda Lopez asked if the white paper needs to also be approved. Kevin remarked he feels it should be included as a backup document that supports the recommendation.

Charlie remarked he feels any supporting documents for a recommendation need to be highlighted and put on the ELAC website for the public. Discussion ensued among the committee as to the best way to handle these documents.

The ELAC committee agreed the intention of this committee is that supplementary documents, that inform an approved recommendation, should be posted along with the official recommendations on the website.

The committee also discussed giving active consideration to branding these documents with the ELAC logo and possibly adding to the next version of the ELAC report due June 30th. It was also suggested that ELAC and ELAC workgroups disseminate these recommendations and supporting documents to groups that can begin actively using the information.

Kevin suggested that a future ELAC meeting should provide time to discuss the strategic distribution of materials and documents. He will make sure it is added to the agenda for a meeting in the next few months.

Family Engagement – John Pierce reported for this Workgroup. John reported the Workgroup has recently:

- Reviewed and modified Family Engagement Outcomes to include providers, families and children
- Revised the language to four levels of engagement – paralleling PTQ
 - Level 1 – recognition of need for family engagement
 - Level 2 – initiation of best practices
 - Level 3 – full implementation
 - Level 4 – mastery and innovation - models
- Discussed training and technical assistance that coaches will need to support program understanding of the FE Toolkit
- Refined and simplified FE Self Assessment, adding color coded indicators of each level

The group will continue to work on these areas finalizing level descriptions, self-assessment indicators and tool kits for EEMG and On My Way. This group plans to bring recommendations to ELAC in June. These will be a pilot model for the pilot grant programs.

Data Coordination and System Integration – Charlie Geier reported for this workgroup. The workgroup has focused on completing the Data Coordination White paper with final additions to the Data Transparency and Privacy and sub-questions sections. These two sections are now nearly complete and going through the final revision process for inclusion. Charlie also commented while this particular portion was developed within the workgroup, it can also stand alone and pertain to other workgroups or organizations. He assured the committee that this work will address the federal government's changes to FERPA and how that impacts everyone's work.

The group has received great feedback on the research questions and Indiana Network of Knowledge (INK) research. Jeff Hudnall, the Executive Director of INK, has been added to the workgroup. The workgroup members will finalize revisions and prepare the report to be shared.

The workgroup discussed the availability of members contributing to a possible federal SLDS grant that focuses on early learning data. DOE has submitted a letter of intent for this grant and June 1, 2015 is the deadline. The workgroup plans to contribute to the writing and reviewing processes.

Funding Streams – Ted Maple, new co-chair for this group, reported that the draft Early Learning Funding memo is nearing completion. The workgroup discussed minor changes to the memo and is going through the final review process. Part of this process is the identification of key stakeholders in the state that should get a preview of the memo in order to suggest changes that would be helpful for key constituencies (e.g. General Assembly). The workgroup developed the list of individuals to participate in this process. The workgroup expects to provide the draft memo to ELAC by the June meeting.

The Workgroup is continuing to explore examples of blending and braiding of funds to support early childhood programming. Examples that have been shared include Head Start and Early Head Start. Workgroup members are interested in examining the effectiveness and efficiency of early childhood programs funded in different ways. The group will also get updated on the Indiana Department of Education's current funding for early childhood and improvements to data collection.

Provider Participation and Advancement – Melanie Brizzi reported that this group is continuing to identify the barriers to providers joining and advancing in levels in Paths to QUALITY™. April's meeting focused on strategic planning for the group's future efforts and identifying the overlap of efforts between committees supporting existing providers. The group is looking more globally at how to support communities in building their early childhood system, and how to increase provider support and remove local barriers. The workgroup is working on articulating a vision for local communities to adopt along with a tool kit of resources for communities to use. This group is also looking at a pathway on PTQ for School-Age and will align their work with other PTQ groups working on this. Many Workgroup members are also aware of this other work and can keep this group informed.

Workforce & Professional Development Update –John Burnett reported that his workgroup held an extended session (4 hours) on Thursday, May 7. They reviewed the latest national reports including: UC Berkley Higher Education Survey and the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council of the National Academies report "Transforming the Workforce of Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation". The group also received an update on the Statewide articulation agreements (program to program). They also reviewed the current version of workforce analysis through 2020 during this extended meeting.

During the next month, the workgroup will review and provide input into the workforce / professional development presentation being drafted. All workgroup members are providing detailed recommendations on how to most effectively grow and develop today and tomorrow's workforce. Data on two specific occupations (teacher and childcare) are being further refined. Supply and demand is substantially out of balance (more demand

than supply), and this situation will become more pronounced (severe worker shortage) by 2020.

Evaluation of Child Outcomes – Kevin Bain reported this committee is continuing to work on drafts of their 3 projects: Indiana Head Start Outcomes, Statewide Assessment Practices at Kindergarten Entry and an Assessment Concept Paper clarifying the terminology used in assessment discussions. Each project continues with reviews, discussions, and edits. All three committees will have additional input from meetings in May and surveys disseminated to continue discussions at the June meeting. The assessment concept paper should be ready to present to ELAC in July or August.

III. June 30 Report Discussion – The statute that created ELAC also requires a report each year that includes recommendations for the governor and legislative council. The report will capture not only the accomplishments of the last year and recommendations; but also, a needs assessment from the data available at the state level to show current state, need, # high quality slots, and families that need services. Given the June 30th date and the legislative calendar, we will provide the report on the 30th and will augment with updates (potentially including the white papers discussed) in the 4th quarter of the year. At the next ELAC meeting, members will approve recommendations for this report. Discussion arose that there will be a quorum present on June 12, 2015. It was determined a quorum of voting members would not be present and alternate dates will be sent to voting members with the possible date of the next ELAC meeting on or about June 5th.

IV. Early Education Matching Grant - Melanie reported the grant procurement has recently concluded for the 2015-16 year. Fourteen grantees renewed their EEMG contracts for a second year and seven new grantees from five new counties were awarded. Applications were not accepted or renewed from providers in the 5 pilot counties (Allen, Jackson, Lake, Marion and Vanderburgh). \$1.4 million was awarded with \$1.7 million received in match funds, which will enable 504 children to be served with EEMG grants for pre-k services. These families must meet eligibility with income below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. Providers are now actively recruiting for their classes to begin in the fall. Funds are allocated within the designated \$2 million for administrative support and an evaluation. Indiana University's contract has been extended for year two and the state should have the report from year one available before Sept. 30th. FSSA asked the legislature for the EEMG funding to be continued within their budget request. In the final state budget it was renewed at \$2 million for each year for 2 years. The state sees this providing opportunities in new counties where pre-k funding has not been available. These grants are also a great capacity building tool within communities.

V. On My Way Pre-K Pilot – The first cohort of children continue to receive services and about half of those children will continue through summer 2015. The Purdue contract for the longitudinal study has been executed. Another important legislative update is that the funding for On My Way Pre-K has been extended for \$10 million each year for another 2 years within the same 5 pilot counties. The original \$1 million that was allocated for the 6 year longitudinal study Purdue University is conducting is not sufficient for additional cohorts of children. However, the language within the statute capping the evaluation cost at \$1 million does age-out, enabling the state to work with Purdue to expand the study as needed.

Family applications for August 2015-16 were due April 30, 2015. Melanie distributed data to the committee concerning applications received for this cohort. The information contained included numbers of those who are not income eligible, at the below 127% FPL required for On My Way Pre-K participation. Total applications received were an estimated 5836 – below 127%FPL - still requiring confirmation of eligibility.

The state also has been working very closely with the Indianapolis approved Pre-k program - Indy PSP. That program is able to serve families above 127%FPL; however, it must first serve all families below 127% FPL. In Marion County, the Indy PSP can also serve 3 year olds; in fact, a minimum of 25% of their total must be 3 year old children. Local intakes are currently notifying families. Given the at risk audience, and our experience with the first cohort, we are targeting filling 1600 seats.

Many providers in the 5 counties served by On My Way PreK are increasing levels in PTQ. Several providers received capacity building grants to assist in reaching eligibility. Jackson County was discussed as an example of collaboration and capacity building.

The first cohort will be evaluated by Purdue for implementation and family engagement and the full longitudinal study will begin with cohort 2 and beyond.

Applications were available online and this has contributed to the streamlining of the process. Local county teams have done a phenomenal job of recruitment of families and assisting families with applications.

VI. Other Business/ other legislative updates

Melanie discussed the CCDBG Reauthorization Ac. The changes will be beneficial to children and families. Our state is well-positioned to meet all requirements before the deadline. Linda Smith with the Administration of Children and Families was in town last week and the state was able to meet with her to assure we are headed in the right direction.

Charlie gave an update on the Elementary Secondary Education Act. Within this act there is a flexibility waiver to use these funds for preschool. There is a tight timeline at the federal level with lots to authorize before fall, so it's still unclear if this will be authorized. The President has said he will veto any bill that removes testing of students each year but there is an ongoing push from White House to use these funds for preschool.

Charlie also gave an update on –the so-called 1003 little G grant – a competitive grant schools can write for up to \$2 million per year. This grant is for school improvement for those schools rated a D or F. One eligible model for this grant is the-Early Learning Model. Indiana has submitted an application and should hear soon. Indiana's application has been highlighted by CEELo, WestEd and the Department of Education as a model application concerning the Early Ed components.

Charlie also gave an update on the Foundations standards project. DOE has received 92 individual public comments from across the state. On a rating scale of 1-5 they received a 4.8 average. A 3rd party (CEELo) evaluation also came back positive and contained some

good potential refinements. The timeline for completion is early to mid-June- depending on revisions.

Head Start Updates – Melanie sadly reported today is Beckie Minglin’s last day with the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning. Beckie is moving on to a role in Adult Disabilities with the state. She has served Head Start for the last 9 years and while we are very happy for her, she will be greatly missed. This leaves a missing Head Start representative on ELAC. Melanie Brizzi and Rhonda Clark will be tag teaming as interim Head Start collaborative director. Melanie also reported the HS performance standards should be posted by the end of the month and will be open for public comments- Melanie will alert everyone when they are posted.

Amanda commented that in light of the home visiting funding, should the committee’s focus include more 0-3? Melanie commented she feels this is an area where we should focus some energy as a committee. After discussion, the Committee’s consensus was that the Family Engagement workgroup could add this to their agenda.

There was a question and comment about the linkage of the kindergarten readiness definition to the Foundations. Charlie reported the kindergarten readiness definition is listed in the beginning of the revised foundations.

John Burnett commented that there is now a program to program articulation from the Ivy Tech Community College Associate of Science degree in Early Childhood Education to the 4 year Bachelors Early Childhood degree as a result of the last legislative session. Indiana is the only state in nation to have this program to program statewide articulation. This is truly a celebration!!

Closing:

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Next meeting date will be determined.