

Early Learning Advisory Committee
Minutes
June 5, 2015
Government Center – Conference Room D

Call to Order 1:05 pm

Present:

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

Absent:

John Burnett

Kevin called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and welcomed everyone. He thanked everyone for their flexibility in the meeting date change to assure a quorum to vote on the June 30th report recommendations.

I. Review of Minutes

Committee reviewed the May 8, 2015 minutes. No additions or corrections. Charlie motioned to approve. Alonzo seconded. Minutes were approved.

II. Workgroup Updates:

Kevin explained that in addition to regular monthly workgroup reports, when a workgroup has a specific recommendation for ELAC approval, they will bring it to a monthly meeting for ELAC members to approve, make recommendations, or send back without approval.

Today, the Family Engagement Workgroup has brought a recommendation for the components of the Family Engagement Toolkit.

Family Engagement – Michael Conn- Powers, workgroup member, shared the workgroup’s recommendation to ELAC to approve the following components of the toolkit:

1. The “Family Engagement Guidelines” – a one-page graphic that highlights four evidence-based ways to build strong family-provider partnerships
 - a. Strengthen families as child’s primary educator and nurturers
 - b. Assist families as connected, supported members of the community
 - c. Empower families as child advocates and leaders
 - d. Support families as safe, healthy and self-sufficient caregivers

2. The “Self-Assessment Tool” – a checklist that allows programs to assess their current level of family engagement on four progressive levels across 23 indicators, and provides a roadmap for continuous improvement.
 - a. Level 1 – Entering
 - b. Level 2 – Emerging
 - c. Level 3 – Progressing

d. Level 4 – Excelling

Providers will complete the tool for their program and include concrete examples of evidence meeting each level.

3. The “Family Engagement Outcomes” – a document that identifies and aligns outcomes for programs, families and children using a logic model approach. Each of the 4 guidelines listed in #1 are aligned with the seven family engagement framework goals adopted by ELAC earlier, identifying program, family, and child outcomes for each guideline.

Michael explained upon adoption and approval by ELAC, the workgroup understands they will next need to combine these pieces into an easy-to-understand kit for providers as well as assist with training and technical assistance. Michael assured the committee the outcomes piece was based on best-practice research, and information from what other states have implemented. The workgroup also relied on information from several sources including Head Start, Strengthening Families, NAEYC, IDOE and the Family and Community Engagement Network of Harvard University.

After a question and answer session, Charlie motioned to approve the Family Engagement committee’s recommendation. Tammy seconded the motion and all approved.

Michael was thanked for his time and explanation. He will take recommendations back to the workgroup to begin the process of combining into a kit and assisting in the training and technical assistance for providers.

Data Coordination and System Integration – Charlie reported the group will not meet in June but is working via email to assist in the completion of the potential SLDS grant DOE is submitting this month. An abstract has been sent to the group and the draft should be completed this weekend. DOE will make final revisions and submit and should hear by late summer if approved. Charlie also announced the workgroup’s co-chair, Karen Comer, is stepping down to pursue her doctorate degree and will not have the time to commit to this committee. Charlie thanked her for her leadership and work with this group since its conception. Next month the group should have completed the FERPA guidance paper and the white paper the group has been working on. Charlie commented while the grant application has required many hours of work, the work could not have been completed without the existence of this workgroup. This supports the importance of all the ELAC workgroups and the individuals who participate.

Funding Streams – Ted Maple, co-chair, reported that the workgroup’s last meeting on May 14th focused on the completion of the Early Learning Funding memo. A list of stakeholders has been identified to preview the memo. The memo is expected to be completed in July. Ted also reported a Title 1 specialist from the Indiana Department of Education presented key information to the group on the use of Title 1 funds for preschool in Indiana. Ted also thanked Transform Consulting Group for all their help in organizing and obtaining information for the group. The group will continue to discuss best practices in Indiana and other states on prioritization of current funding that can be used for early childhood. They will also work to obtain data on the cost to provide early childhood

education in Indiana. Ted reported over \$847 million is paid by private pay parents each year – 2/3 of the total spent on Early Learning and a large part of a family's budget.

Provider Participation and Advancement – Melanie Brizzi, co-chair, reported this workgroup had an interim presentation from Purdue's evaluation of Paths to QUALITY™ by one of the lead researchers, Karen Ruprecht. The workgroup will continue to focus on supporting community development to improve high quality early childhood education (since so many other groups are focusing their work on programs). The workgroup has invited communities with an organized education coalition to a panel discussion on June 8th. All ELAC members and workgroups are invited to participate. The workgroup will solicit feedback from the panel on the need, resources and opportunities to support local leaders interested in having high quality early childhood education programs available and affordable in their community - to frame the focus of the workgroup's priorities going forward. The group will also look at program and intermediary surveys and national reports to determine their next steps.

Workforce & Professional Development Update – Tammy Veselsky, workgroup member, presented for this workgroup as both chairs were unable to attend. The workgroup held an extended meeting May 7th and the group submitted 3 recommendations for the June 30th ELAC report related to workforce data coordination and alignment, recognition of the CDA for the High School Career Track and the inclusion of a birth-to-three teacher license. At the workgroup's next meeting, the Indiana Higher Ed Inventory Preliminary Report will be presented by UC Berkley and the group will finalize the detailed report and recommendations regarding the supply and demand of the early childhood workforce.

Evaluation of Child Outcomes – Kevin Bain, co-chair, reported that given the date change, this group has not met since the last ELAC meeting. Each subcommittee continues to meet and continues to work on their projects:

1. Indiana Head Start Outcomes – group is meeting with Executive Director of the Indiana Head Start Association in June
2. Statewide Assessment practices – is sending a survey to school corporation testing coordinators on KEA practices
3. Assessment Concept Paper – continue to work with feedback from last meeting

Child Development and Well-being – Connie Sherman, co-chair, reported the group met May 28th and divided into 3 subcommittees to conduct a scan of 3 areas of children's health – 1)physical 2)intellectual and 3)social/emotional/mental. The group also provided verbal feedback on the latest version of the Foundations to IDOE. The group will continue data gathering concerning each health area and will seek more clarification on what is meant in the World Health Organization definition of "intellectual" health since that definition was adopted last month by ELAC for Indiana. The group will review the information as if the audience of outcomes will be the PTQ system so recommendations can positively impact the PTQ system.

Connie commented the group has discussed a possible Indiana website around Early Learning much like other states that have a dedicated website. The group discussed the need to a readily-accessible site that could be broadly promoted. Connie mentioned Washington State's site would be a good model.

Melanie suggested any recommendations for PTQ should be directed to the PTQ governance committee workgroup.

III. June 30 Report Discussion – Kevin reported on 10 draft recommendations (final version attached) that were compiled with input from the workgroups; when approved, these recommendations will be included in the ELAC June 30th report to the legislature. Given that the legislative session has been completed for the year, an expanded version of this report will be compiled in early fall when legislators return to prepare for the upcoming session.

Discussion ensued on the draft recommendations. In response to a question, Melanie clarified that the “in kind” match in #8 would potentially include things like capital improvements and supplies, but this is pending legal approval – FSSA legal is working on this to assure compliance.

It was also commented that more is needed to define “home visiting” as described in #10. Who would be included - Head Start, First Steps, others? This definition would likely fall under the Family Engagement workgroup and will be added to their work.

Alonzo made a motion to approve these recommendations as amended for the June 30th ELAC report. Charlie seconded. All committee members were in favor. Motion approved.

IV. Foundations Update Charlie reported after scanning for grammatical errors and formatting issues, the Foundations are ready for ELAC approval. The 2015 version is based on research, feedback from practitioners and work from professionals with expertise in each area. The process spanned from September 2014 – today. Charlie also commented this work could not have been completed without the prior work of the original and revised editions and multiple workgroups.



Early Learning
Foundations June 2015

. Charlie shared a few pages from the newest version and discussed how the Foundations are aligned to the 2014 Academic Standards and how these Foundations recognize the early learning continuum, birth to kindergarten. They are also aligned with the ISTAR-KR assessment tool and include additions from Approaches to Play and Learning Foundations, Health Foundations and English Language Development Standards. Overall, it is a very user friendly format.

There was comment that the social/emotional section did not have kindergarten standards and Charlie reported those standards have not been developed for K-3. This was left blank to foster additional conversations.

It was suggested the Kindergarten Readiness Definition should be more prominent and the Family Engagement Framework should be included in the family paragraph. Charlie agreed, and added that ELAC’s approved definition of health is included on the Health page.

The ELAC logo will also be inserted on the final copy.

A motion to approve the document with the addition of the ELAC logo and featuring the Kindergarten Readiness definition and Family Engagement Framework was made by Melanie. Tammy seconded. All committee members were in favor. Motion approved.

Charlie thanked the committee for their feedback and help. This is a continuous work in progress. Purdue University has been engaged to implement the new Foundations and provide training and technical assistance. Megan Purcell from Purdue was in the audience and was asked to say a few words; she conveyed her excitement to begin this project and work with IDOE.

V. Early Education Matching Grant - Melanie reported the 2015-16 EEMG have been awarded to 21 programs, serving approximately 500 children in families with incomes at 100% of poverty or below. Program provider contracts should be good to go by August start dates. The legislature did extend the funding for these grants so there will be a new RFF in the fall. A press release was sent to all awardees and is posted online <http://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4980.htm> along with contact information for each grant recipient. Melanie encouraged everyone to have eligible families in those counties contact those providers listed, as programs will be enrolling children and determining eligibility.

VI. On My Way Pre-K Pilot – Melanie reported the Fall 2015 cohort is quite a bit different from the ‘soft launch’ in January. We are seeing a much higher qualified response rate to date, there are 569 children fully enrolled, and 619 children partially enrolled (pending eligibility or whose family hasn’t yet chosen an approved provider). There are still 3493 with pending appointments in the next few weeks and 149 grants have been terminated for ineligibility. We are tracking daily, and working on capacity issues in Marion and Vanderburgh counties as many providers are full. County teams are working to enroll providers; coaches and raters are working with the 41 total pending providers to become approved by June 30th.

There has been a lot of positive feedback that the families are so happy to have received this grant for their child and they are truly grateful for the opportunity. We will be capturing these stories. Charlie commented at IDOE they have experienced the stress on their system for enrolling programs/children for ISTAR-KR. What used to take up to 2 weeks is now completed in 48 hours and they are noticing programs are enrolling ALL their children, not just the OMW grant recipients. They are looking at staffing and future needs as this program continues.

VII. Other Business

Kevin announced that many around the state have been assisted by Ready Nation for several years. Ready Nation will be hosting a Global Business Summit in New York City Oct. 1st and 2nd. Kevin will be attending and encouraged members to invite potential funders and business leaders who may be “on the fence” to come hear from other global business executives about the economic impact of early education. While individuals will need to pay their travel and hotel fees, Ready Nation will provide the conference free of charge to business leaders. Kevin would like to meet and host anyone who attends from Indiana. To register, visit www.readynation.org. Indiana has had good representation at

Early Learning Advisory Committee past summits. An executive from Lilly is a key speaker this year. It was asked if it would be appropriate for local legislators to attend and Kevin commented Bob Behning attended a similar session on social impact bonds a couple of years ago.

Charlie announced the 1003 Little G funding has been released. Early Learning is one of the possible models for underachieving schools to choose to improve. They could receive up to \$2 million over 5 years to implement an Early Learning program. This should encourage partnership between community and school programs. Schools have until July 7th to apply.

The committee discussed a tentative agenda for July as many items were discussed to be presented:

- Funding Streams Memo
- Workforce Update – Berkley Report
- Early Learning Indiana updates
- New provider eligibility laws that go into effect July 1st
- FERPA guidance from data coordination

Melanie agreed to wait and present the reauthorization updates and state plan in August since July was so busy.

Closing:

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm.

Next meeting will be back on normal schedule – Friday, July 10, 2015 from 1:00pm-3:00pmEST, Conference Room #4

III. Recommendations

Indiana's pilot programming for 4-year olds, via the Early Education Matching Grant and On My Way Pre-K, is helping to provide a high quality early childhood experience for a growing number of Hoosier children. The state's continuing progress in these experiences which enhance accessibility, affordability, and quality for Indiana's children, will be enhanced by: 1) a better understanding of the state's current baseline; 2) more rigorous definitions of the desired outcomes; and 3) enhanced coordination of efforts: cross-functional cooperation among the organizations that serve and report, as well as efficient and effective public/private funding streams. Towards that end, ELAC offers the following recommendations:

A. Better Understanding of the State's Current Baseline

1. In response to the ELAC Data Coordination workgroup's research, we recommend relevant state agencies identify, collect and release when available (according to all state and federal laws) essential data elements to answer important early learning research questions. This may include information such as: identification of assessments used in kindergarten; the reporting of Title 1 preschool data; the reporting of special education preschool data; and, Indiana Head Start programs' child outcome data.

B. Clarity Around Shared Definitions of Desired Outcomes

2. We recommend that IDOE and Family and Social Service Agency (FSSA) designate a liaison to work with ELAC to align and integrate their programs and standards with the ELAC-approved definition for kindergarten readiness.
3. We recommend that IDOE and FSSA designate a liaison to work with ELAC to align and integrate their programs and standards with the ELAC-approved definition for family engagement.
4. We recommend that the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and FSSA designate a liaison to work with ELAC to align and integrate in their programs and standards with the ELAC-approved definition for child health.
5. With these approved definitions of desired outcomes, we recommend that the identified agencies work to widely disseminate, share and promote these definitions and supporting tools and resources to the public and key stakeholders via their website and other communication tools.

C. Enhanced Coordination of Efforts

6. Establish MOU and Data Share Agreements as well as fully incorporate data being collected (see recommendation #1) into Indiana Network of Knowledge's statewide longitudinal data system of pre-k to career data.
7. We recommend that IDOE, FSSA, Department of Workforce Development (DWD), and the Commission of Higher Education (COHE) coordinate the collection and

reporting of early childhood education workforce and credentialing data, so that a clearer picture of today and tomorrow's workforce needs can be determined.

8. We recommend that FSSA consider amending the cash-match requirement to a combination of cash *and* in-kind match requirement for the Early Education Matching Grant (EEMG) and On My Way Pre-K programs. Given the dollar for dollar cash match currently required for EEMG, we believe that making this change will expand the number of high quality early childhood education programs and communities that will be able to participate in the program and serve low-income families. For On My Way Pre-K, we believe that adding the option of in-kind with a cash match will help the five communities ensure maximum child enrollment in the program.
9. We recommend that FSSA (OECOSL, HS Collaboration, First Steps), ISDH and the Department of Child Services (DCS) coordinate the communication, outreach and enrollment of families and their young children in evidence-based home visiting programs and high quality early childhood education programs.
10. We recommend that the Governor consider appointing additional voting members to ELAC, given the periodic difficulty in securing a quorum of voting members. We believe the current balance of private and public sector is advantageous. From the public sector, it would be helpful to have a representative voice from ISDH and DCS. Additional ethnic and geographic diversity would also be a plus.