

Early Learning Advisory Committee
Minutes
August 14, 2015
Government Center – Conference Room 4

Present:

Kevin Bain
Melanie Brizzi
Charlie Geier
Tammy Veselsky
Alonzo Weems
Connie Sherman

Absent:

John Burnett

Guests:

Beth Barrett
Michael Conn-Powers

I. Call to Order

Kevin called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm and welcomed everyone.

II. Review of Minutes

Committee reviewed the July 10, 2015 minutes. No additions or corrections. Melanie motioned to approve. Alonzo seconded. Minutes were approved.

III. Workgroup Updates:

Each month ELAC's 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 recommendations for upcoming ELAC meetings to assist in planning the agenda for future meetings. This month, three of the workgroups have recommendations to present to the ELAC for approval.

1. **Funding Streams-** Ted Maple, co-chair, began by recognizing Transform Consulting Group for all their contributions to this recommendation. Ted asked the committee to approve and adopt the "Analysis of Funding that Supports Early Childhood Programs and Services in Indiana." The ELAC committee members were given a copy prior to the meeting to read. Ted summarized as follows: the report identifies the different sources of funding that support early learning in Indiana including federal, state, local, public, private and philanthropic funding by age groups. The report contains a template that details funds dedicated specifically for Early Childhood. A significant amount of funding is still private parent pay, which continues to be a challenge to affordability. The group has worked on a proposed dissemination plan, including an advance copy to individuals in the governor's office. Once approved, the report will be posted on the website for public consumption and included in the next ELAC report.

A comment was made that this document should be updated as new information is received and become a resource for the most current information. There was a question if there were any ah-ha moments during the process. Ted commented of

the heavy reliance on parents to pay; if only the parents who are able to pay for quality can access it, we have a lot of work to do to meet our goals. Given the multiple funding streams and the need for coordination among participating agencies, there is work to be done to use these funding streams effectively and efficiently. Amanda Lopez added there are a few funding streams that are still not clear in terms of exactly how those funds can be used for early childhood.

Ted commented the group is aware there are funds from CACFP (the food program) that are not yet included in the report and asked the committee to approve with the understanding that information would be added as soon as it is obtained.

Alonzo congratulated the group on an easy to read and understand report. He commented the state funding looked to be about 7% and asked if this was typical or how that compares with states other states. Ted was unsure of a comparison of other states. Amanda said the surprise was the state's biggest contribution was in the match so the state is able to pull down the maximum amount of federal funding so that is a significant contribution of policy makers.

There was a motion to approve by Charlie, seconded by Tammy and the full committee agreed to adopt this report with the understanding that the CACFP information will be added as soon as it is obtained.

- 2. Data Coordination** – Charlie, co-chair, reported the group has a recommendation to bring to ELAC today on the Data Privacy paper they have been working on. The group continues to look at adding new members to ensure varied geographic representation and professional expertise.

Workgroup Recommendation

Since 2014, the ELAC Data Coordination and Systems Integration workgroup has been working to support the development of a statewide longitudinal data system to connect Pre-K to Career data. Through this work, the issue of data sharing and privacy become important topics to understand and address. After thorough research from other states and best practices, the workgroup developed a white paper on data privacy and security considerations. ELAC members were given a copy to read prior to the meeting.

The white paper Data Privacy and Security Considerations identifies ten privacy and security principles, includes an FAQ section for early learning data, as well as sources and references. This would be used by ELAC workgroups and others who need it.

There was group discussion and Alonzo commented whenever possible de-identified data should be used. Within the FAQ section, this is mentioned but Charlie commented this could be added to the top to make the point more clear. Kevin asked if once this is approved should it be adopted and shared with workgroups and Charlie said this is the goal.

There was a motion to approve by Alonzo and seconded by Tammy. All members were in favor to adopt this white paper.

- 3. *Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes*** – Kevin introduced Megan Purcell, co-chair for this workgroup. Megan directed members to the copy of the recommendation document they received prior to the meeting. The document has been designed to be easily understood by all stakeholders regardless of their level of proficiency in this arena. Megan explained the reasoning for the document was to put some language and parameters around the process of assessment – a user friendly document to define the work we are doing. The document is a simple visual of the various purposes of assessment: supporting learning/ supporting instruction/ identifying children who may need additional services/ evaluating provider program quality/ measuring child outcomes. Within each of these components, columns review the primary purpose, commonly used examples (not exhaustive – just an example), skills assessed, provides direction to whom, administered when & by whom, and any additional comments on how these tools are used.

Workgroup Recommendation

The Evaluation Workgroup recommended that ELAC approve, adopt, and broadly disseminate the Assessment Overview document. This is envisioned as a useful reference document whenever discussions are held about the assessments that will ultimately determine progress in Indiana classrooms and among Indiana children.

There was committee discussion concerning eventually adding evaluations beyond kindergarten to third grade and also including 0-3 to promote the birth to 3 continuum. It was also commented that all the assessments being used by both Purdue and IU in pre-k program studies should be included as examples on this along with the scope of any state-funded assessments (e.g., PTQ).

Charlie made a motion to approve and Melanie seconded. All ELAC members were in favor.

- 4. *Family Engagement*** – John Pierce, co-chair, reported this group has worked on refining the content for the FE toolkit webinars that were offered Aug. 4 & 5 for PTQ Coaches, Specialists and On My Way (OMW) Pre-K Project Managers. The Marketing Firm WDM and the OECOSL are finalizing the visual design of the toolkit for webinars planned next week. Next month, Sept. 29th, the toolkit will be presented at the Infant Toddler Institute. This committee is also working on the request from ELAC for a definition of Home Visiting, as well as a Family friendly version of the Early Childhood Foundations. The group hopes to work with higher education to include family engagement and some of this work in their college coursework. Charlie commented on our overall branding, asking that include our state name as part of the ELAC branding. We want to assure our hard work is recognized as from Indiana. Melanie commented there have been a lot of positive feedback on the training and materials.
- 5. *Workforce and Professional Development*** – Dianna Wallace, co-chair, reported their committee met yesterday to review and finalize the report on the “Supply and Demand of the Early Childhood Workforce” to be presented next month to ELAC. They will also present the 2014 Workforce Study results and have guests from the

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Center for Childcare Employment at UC Berkley, who will present findings from the
Higher Ed Inventory.

These reports should give clarity about the current state of workforce and degrees. Dianna was asked what the ah-ha's were in their findings. The net takeaway is, our state is looking at in the State of Indiana a shortage of qualified individuals from entry level to Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education. We need to look at how we recruit and retain qualified individuals. Hopefully the Berkley Report will be part of the answer of what is available.

- 6. *Child Development and Well Being*** – Connie Sherman, co-chair, reported this group is discussing ways in which a broader emphasis can be placed in getting more young children screened for developmental delays. The group is looking for ways to bring awareness to the need for these screenings to be happening across the state in all settings. The group is also discussing ways in which they can provide tools/resources and support to providers to integrate health into more programs. Next month, the group will review and prepare a document for consideration as a formal state wide proclamation for Early Childhood Developmental screening week. The group will be looking to see if a screening similar to the Head Start screening process could be incorporated in PTQ programs and how the ELI/Americorp work with family engagement might build health into that model. The group will have a special presentation on September 17th from a Zero to Three representative with regards to infant/toddler well being and Connie invited all co-chairs to attend if possible. They also plan to work with the Family Engagement workgroup to engage families about health.

The committee discussed the process for the Governor's office to proclaim Sept. 23-29th Early Childhood Developmental Screening Week. Melanie explained you must apply to the governor's office and Dianna added you can call and speed the process. Usually there is a 90 day request period but they are very flexible. There is also an online form.

Kevin asked Connie to send to ELAC members for approval. Timelines are a concern. Pending approval, Connie can move forward to apply and Kevin or Melanie will call the governor's office.

Connie made a motion to request approval of sending a proclamation to the governor's office for the Early Childhood Developmental Screening Week, pending committee review. Charlie seconded and all members were in favor.

There was discussion of ways to promote Early Learning with other existing proclamations throughout the year.

- 7. *Provider Participation and Advancement*** – Melanie Brizzi, co-chair, clarified the new focus of this workgroup as supporting local communities. The group's new primary responsibility is to: "Identify, connect, support and equip local community collaborations focused on improving the quality, availability and affordability of high quality early childhood education."

The group will begin by researching and understanding best practices of coalition building around the country and better understand the landscape of coalition building in Indiana counties and how to learn from and support them, possibly with a toolkit.

Charlie commented so many communities want to engage and they just don't know how. ELAC workgroup resources can help provide coaching and a support system to begin this work and build capacity at both the county and the state level.

- IV. Functional Expertise Workgroup Support** – Kevin reported many workgroups have reported the need for specialized expertise as we staff workgroups - for example, financial analysis, marketing, graphic design, marketing research, IT support. We are looking to add these to provide assistance to various workgroups on an as needed basis. Kevin shared a plea for anyone to submit names of those with this specialized expertise to either Amanda or Kevin so we can welcome them to the process. These individuals do not need to have Early Childhood expertise.
- V. Early Education Matching Grant Update** – Michael Conn-Powers shared preliminary findings from IU's research into year one EEMG. Selected highlights include:
- Children experienced significant gains in learning based on PPVT and Bracken
 - Average gains in learning (in months) outpaced their time in PreK
 - Few differences among children of different races
 - Majority of children exited at or above age level in their learning
 - Significant average gains in school readiness for English Lang Arts & Math
 - Majority of children exit with kindergarten readiness skills
 - Families and Teachers reported significant increases in family engagement
- As findings are finalized, information will be more broadly disseminated.
- VI. On My Way Pre-K Pilot Update** Melanie reported most of the programs have begun, there are a few starting later, and we have exceeded enrollment – Melanie will send enrollment numbers to the committee.
- VII. Other Business - none**
- VIII. Adjournment** Motion to adjourn was made by Charlie. Alonzo seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.

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