

# INDIANA EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Provider Participation and Advancement Workgroup

Meeting Summary (with Special Panel Discussion)

October 5, 2015



### MEMBERS

Kevin Bain

Melanie Brizzi

Charlie Geier

Beckie Minglin

Tammy Veselsky

Alonzo Weems

### ADVISORY

### MEMBERS

John Burnett

Connie Sherman

**Attendees:** Bruce Stahly, Kathy Oren, Kent Mitchell, Monty Hulse, Kathryn Raasch, Melanie Brizzi, Erin Kissling, Anne Gabbert, Christy Prulhiere, Lacey Kottkamp, Ruth Amaro, Amanda Lopez, Monica DiOrio, Kyle Wehmann;  
*Guests: Kim Hodge, Angie Skwarcan, Holly Hilton-Dennis, Jennifer Bump*

#### ELAC Updates

- January Annual ELAC Workgroup kick-off meeting *save the date* will be released soon
- The regular committee meeting on Friday, October 9, has been cancelled and instead will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> strategic planning session.

#### Panel Discussion: CCR&R Community Organizing to Support High Quality ECE

##### *Facilitators:*

- *Melanie Brizzi, Director, Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning*
- *Kathryn Rssach, Principal, Wayne Township Preschool*

##### *Panelists:*

- *Early Childhood Alliance – Shannon Gage*
- *Bona Vista Programs/Child Care Solutions – Michelle Kanable*
- *Chances and Services For Youth (CASY) – Natalie Pugh*
- *Huffer Child Care Resource and Referral – Liane Nickey*
- *Muncie By5 – Carrie Bale*

Panelists were introduced and context provided for the discussion. Each panelist gave background info on their community's coalition and level of readiness.

Q: As CCR&Rs, what has been your role and where do you see that role going forward? Do you see other areas where your role could be expanded?

- Liane Nickey and Carrie Bale: We have two major collaborations: Muncie By5 and the Madison County Early Child Initiative. By5 was born for a larger initiative asking stakeholders about their vision for Muncie (linking learning, health, and prosperity) called the Muncie Action Plan. Supported by the local community foundation, By5 has developed a comprehensive, holistic plan for what is needed to be ready for kindergarten. It is meant to be a catalyst for change, a *convener* of programs, not an organization that runs programs. Our role is to help community champions and provide resources and coordination.
- Natalie Pugh: Some of our communities are working on similar things but using their United Way funding differently:
  - Monroe County has invited the local CCR&R to be at the table to

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help with capacity building/quality improvements and funding for professional development and other materials needed for quality programs.

- More quality seats were requested and some resistance met when unlicensed registered ministries were suggested, but now the CCR&R is helping them focus on developing those slots.
- Michelle Kanable: Wabash County is focusing on literacy improvement and has found related grants to apply for using United Way funding. Transportation is a theme in two other counties.
  - The CCR&R is seen as a technical advisor and liaison for our service delivery area (SDA). It is evident that the communities CCR&Rs are not involved in are not really taking any action in the early childhood arena.
- Shannon Gage: United Way involvement has been a key piece to local progress. It is mostly service providers that are involved in local coalitions, but some of the longer standing ones have legislative and business representation.
- All agreed with the importance of having United Ways involved. There are so many great resources and things happening in communities! We need to figure out how to make connections and leverage existing resources; its about enhancing the work that CCR&Rs are *already* doing.
- All agreed that data is key. Sharing data is powerful to help local communities understand where they are and where they need to go. Program providers look to the CCR&Rs to take their data and make sense of it for their communities.
- Kim Hodge provided an update on the development of county-level community profiles that IACCRR is producing for the local CCR&Rs. They have created an interactive, online version that will be available to CCR&Rs (not the public at least for now). The data is populated in real time. The community profiles are called, "Early Learning and Out-of-School Time Data Profiles."
- Melanie Brizzi discussed rolling out this data as part of the ELAC initiative. How do we enable CCR&Rs to track who is checking this data on the website?

Q: Have you identified differences between working in rural communities vs. urban communities?

- Rural communities can be wary with outsiders. Locating the right contact person within organizations can also be difficult.
- It is easier to gain support from community organizations if the local businesses are involved or if plans of action are already in motion.
- Liane explains that Delaware and Madison counties will both have a

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Local ECE Specialist position. This staff person is responsible for developing relationships and creating partnerships to collaborate on ECE across county lines so SDAs are working together to share ideas.

Q: Building non-traditional partnerships is key, but who is missing from the table?

- Families are key partners in coalitions, but how do we incentivize them to participate?
- Licensed family home providers are missing from collaborations because meetings and trainings are not at a convenient time for their work schedules. Could meetings take place at different times each month?
- One option is for coalitions is to go through non-traditional partners and groups that already have a relationship with families, such as faith-based organizations. Is there still an effort to regularly convene faith-based leaders around the state?
- Is Purdue Extension involved in early learning? They could be a resource, along with Higher Ed partners.

Q: How is the mixed delivery system working in your communities?

- It is often difficult for different types of ECE program providers to see themselves as working together towards a common goal.
- The opportunity to apply for EEMG grants with a joint-application could help to bridge some of these gaps.
- Carrie Bale suggests that distributing an outcomes report for EEMG may incentivize more providers to apply.

Q: Have there been challenges implementing the EEMG program?

- Continuous funding collaborations were a main concern, but so far, the partnerships are still strong.

Q: Could CCR&Rs be used as a data/information “hub” that can disseminate information to all the coalitions, once identified?

- It is not always clear whom the right person is to give information to in some communities.
- Some CCR&Rs have reached out to the local Chamber of Commerce, community foundations, etc., and been invited to “be at the table” during regular meetings.
- CCR&Rs could approach city council members in small communities and ask how they can help. Need to “tease out” the decision makers.
- Some of our coalitions are aligning themselves with the work created by ELAC.

Q: Any ideas on how to spark collaboration between CCR&Rs and counties where there is little known effort?

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- Again, through local United Ways. Also, System of Care community meetings may be something to tap into, as well as more communication around program application initiatives.
- There was discussion of learning more about the SOC model and how it could help coalition building at the local level.

### Some key takeaways:

- CCR&Rs could facilitate the formation of collaborative organizations (like By5) that help support community champions and provide resources and coordination.
- United Way involvement can be key to coalition building progress; CCR&Rs could help facilitate UW partnerships with local organizations.
- Sharing data with communities is powerful to help them understand where they are and where they need to go.
- CCR&Rs could disseminate ECE data and information about ROI to local business to get them “on board” and involved in community coalitions.
- More CCR&R staff positions like “Local ECE Specialist” could be created to develop relationships and facilitate partnerships that cross county lines.
- CCR&Rs could help find ways for more families and family home providers to be “at the table” and part of the coalition building conversation.

### Kent Mitchell, Early Learning Indiana (ELI) Updates

- ELI has capacity building opportunities and is still looking for programs to participate! The goal is to create more high quality seats, including 100+ seats this Fall.
- ELI will offer business skills and marketing 101 trainings, as well as ongoing professional development opportunities for ECE program directors and staff.

### Action Steps:

1. Kyle will revise the meeting agenda to include a standing update for ELI.
2. Amanda and Kyle will follow up with Lucinda Nord on the map of coalitions across the state.
3. At the next meeting, we will begin looking at resources, toolkits, and other tools to inform and equip local coalitions.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 9; 1:00 – 3:00 pm EST

**Location:** Wayne Township Preschool, 31155 South High School Road, Indianapolis, IN

**Conference Call #:** 877-422-1931; **Code:** 8938051085