

Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC)

Meeting Minutes July 11, 2014

Present:

Kevin Bain, Welborn Baptist Foundation (ELAC chairman)
Melanie Brizzi, Indiana FSSA, Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning
Charlie Geier, Indiana Department of Education
Connie Sherman, St. Mary's Child Center (ELAC special advisor)
Alonzo Weems, Eli Lilly

Absent:

Tammy Veselsky, Traders Point Christian Academy
Beckie Minglin, Office of the Head Start Collaboration Director
John Burnett, Community Education Coalition (ELAC special advisor)

Guests:

Amanda Lopez, Transform Consulting Group

Next meeting: Next meeting date – August 8, 2014, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST

1. Announcements

Kevin welcomed all committee members and introduced Beth Barrett as new Program Manager for Pre-K in the Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning.

2. Discussion

1. Review of Minutes of last meeting, held July 11, 2014

Once a quorum was present, a motion to approve the minutes was moved by Charlie Geier and seconded by Melanie Brizzi. The minutes were approved.

2. June 30th Report

Kevin thanked all involved in the completion of the report to the governor with special thanks to Amanda Lopez, IYI and numerous organizations for their help and assistance. Apologies were made for such a quick turnaround for input but all work was much appreciated. Charlie thanked Kevin for taking comments from all and integrating comments and suggestions from everyone in the report. The report is now posted on the CAREFINDER website (http://www.in.gov/fssa/files/Final_ELAC_Report_06_30_14.pdf) and there was broad distribution to the governor's office, legislative summer study commission, the Education committee members in both the Senate and the House, as well as a press release. The Guiding Team spent some time today discussing the hand off of next steps to the appropriate ELAC committees. Recommendations from the report will require draft legislation and ELAC committees will be happy to share background as needed for that.

3. Guiding Team

Kevin introduced the Guiding Team made up of a co-chair from each ELAC workgroup and explained this team will coordinate efforts and discuss areas that overlap groups. This team will help to steer the work of ELAC and deliver value to the work accomplished. An overview of their work and any recommendations will be reported at each ELAC meeting. This team will be meeting directly before each ELAC meeting.

4. Workgroup Updates

Kevin asked each group to give a brief 5-7 minute synopsis of what they have been working on and to identify some short term and end of year deliverables:

1. Child Development and Well Being (Connie Sherman) Connie identified the most urgent task of their group is to define Kindergarten Readiness and to align the early learning standards with the K-3 standards. They have had 2 meetings and will meet again on July 15, 2014. In this meeting they will discuss research from other states' definitions of Kindergarten Readiness and hope to have a draft definition to share with the Evaluation workgroup for an aligned, appropriate evaluation choice.

2. Family Engagement (Keith Reissaus) Keith reported this group has spent their first couple of meetings on defining their deliverables and looking at Race to the Top winners and what they are doing to engage families. They are also looking at Head Start family engagement and best practices and identifying a timeline. There was a question of what child age they should focus their work on, and at this time it was determined pre-k and younger should be the focus. Alonzo reminded the committee of building capacity of the parent and to look at parents as first teachers. Because some families don't realize they need to be involved, some work in engaging families may include that work. Two meetings in, Keith reported the group is simply working on benchmarks, with a framework as the focus. Next week's meeting will identify what was found in other states and how it fits in Indiana. He also commented there are few tools to evaluate family engagement.

3. Provider Participation and Advancement (Melanie Brizzi) Melanie reported this committee will meet next Monday, July 14, 2014. They have been identifying the areas within public schools that are already monitored and inspected by the fire marshal, food program and/ or Board of Health. They hope to have an additional pathway to PTQ Level 3 identified for public schools by the end of the summer to launch for public school preschools. They are also looking to expand participation in charter schools. This group is exploring the standards and what barriers there may be and how those barriers can be removed and what outreach is needed to best serve families. The group is first looking at public schools for the Pre-K pilot grants. Private school preschools are eligible providers for the Pre-K pilot if they are accredited for pre-K.

4. Workforce and Professional Development (Dianna Wallace) Dianna reported their group has met 3 times and has separated into workforce and professional development subcommittees to concentrate on each area. The workforce subcommittee has been working on identifying occupations within the field. They hope to expand the committee to include a member from a professional licensing board and a member from DOE conversant in teacher licensure. The August 14, 2014 meeting will look at research analysis and aligning with a national study funded by the Kellogg foundation for NAEYC, hoping to have an opportunity to impact that study. They are also looking at the demand for various occupations currently, by 2020, and by 2040. They are also looking at national data to compare numbers and compensation by region. It was discussed that IYI could help with providing the number of children for current/2020/2040 to compare with the workforce numbers and if there will be enough staff to meet the needs. The professional development subcommittee will meet Sept. 4, 2014 and will be working on an inventory of Higher Education offerings in Early Childhood.

5. Funding Streams (Amanda Lopez) Amanda gave the report for this group as neither co-chair was in attendance. Amanda reported this group has had 3 meetings. Right now the group is concentrating on preschool funding and will broaden to birth to age 8 in the fall. The private/philanthropic members made recommendations to consider how investments from their community have been used for quality improvements or building improvements. They are working on a matrix and the 10 questions posed to the Legislative Study Commission. They are looking at existing models (HS, CCDF, feasibility studies and statewide PreK study) and what could work. They are also preparing to see if Indiana will be in a position to apply the Preschool Development Federal Grant due out early fall.

6. Data Coordination (Charlie Geier) Charlie reported this group has been building and establishing relationships within the team. Their next steps will be a 6 month plan for outcomes and deliverables and asked each workgroup to identify what data is needed by their group to meet their needs and goals. They are ready to move forward and will be watching some other data studies (INK) to see what data is included. Their work is to create a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) and will be looking at where they are now and where they need to be in the future and what they need to get there. They will be looking at other states and establish a direction for Indiana. There may be some legislative action needed to see how we will get the data on children. As each workgroup identifies gaps, this group will work to get the data needed.

7. Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes (Kevin Bain) Kevin explained as workgroups hit due dates for their deliverables, there will be a need for the workgroup to bring recommendations to ELAC. This workgroup would like to reserve time at next month's meeting as they will be recommending a standardized test/measure to use for Kindergarten Readiness for the longitudinal study to compare the Pre-K pilot children to the control group without Pre-K. The other deliverable for this group is to recommend a statewide measure of Kindergarten Readiness and recommend a tool. The group narrowed 16 identified tools down to 6 and researched variables for each including cost, domains, linked to IN foundations/standards, administration/scoring, reporting and feedback from use of the tool. They looked at 2 combination approaches, both including on demand (standardized, cognitive, language/vocabulary) and observational tools. In comparison of what other states are doing, most also use a combination of both types of approaches. Evaluator (someone the child is unfamiliar with giving the test) vs. teacher testing was discussed and the potential impact on the the child and test results reliability. The legislature and lay community need quantitative data, not just observations. Kevin commented it will not be perfect but will address the needs; the workgroup will try to balance both approaches. They are considering when it will be given and who will administer and looking at the current Purdue evaluation for PTQ and the IU study for the EEMG. They are looking at tools that consider family input and teacher communications with the parent. It was commented that the Kindergarten teacher might be less vested and more reliable to administer and test. Discussion suggested we must communicate results well so public does not surmise incorrectly without understanding. There may not be clear cut answers but we must make the best investments in tools that will measure tangible/ short term progress.

5. **Early Education Matching Grant Update** Melanie reported they are still working on contracts. The start date is August 1, 2014 and awardees have been completing training in ISTAR-KR and Evaluations. There will be a second round of funds released this fall (another 2 million is authorized, before expenses) with a similar timeline. Questions of how the EEMG and Pre-K pilot will work together are still being discussed but remember EEMG is specific for providers and the Pre-K pilot is specific for the child. Parents choose the provider for the Pre-K pilot. There is a webinar on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 by Michael Conn-Powers for providers concerning the evaluation and how it will be implemented.
6. **2014 Legislation Update: HEA 1004** Melanie also reported on the progress of the Pre-K pilot grants. 18 counties provided a statement of county readiness and the office held 2 webinars to describe the process. All 18 counties collaborated with entities within the county to prepare readiness reports. Many commented on how this process brought their county together and felt the collaboration was a great first step. A team of Higher Ed, Programs, Non-profits, businesses met to choose the pilot counties looking at what was legislatively required including metro/non-metro, number of children, and evidence of collaboration/ if the match was met. Those counties will be announced mid-July and the office will work with all for next steps to be successful. It has also been discussed how we can work with the counties not chosen to keep the momentum going in their communities and how we can assist them.
7. **Other Business** There is a pending federal Preschool Developmental Grant for states to use for development of statewide pre-K. Should be out August-Early October with 45-60 days to apply. Indiana could be eligible for up to 20 million.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.