

EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 10, 2014

Call to Order 1:05 pm

Present:

Kevin Bain
Melanie Brizzi
Beckie Minglin
Tammy Veselsky
Connie Sherman

Absent:

Charlie Geier
John Burnett
Alonzo Weems
Guests:
Beth Barrett
Chris Whitmire, Family Engagement Co-Chair

Review of Minutes

No corrections to minutes of September 12, 2014. Minutes from September 12, 2014 were approved. Kevin explained the minutes will be posted once approved by ELAC for review by the public. Those minutes can be found at <http://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4842.htm>

Work Group Updates/ Recommendations:

Today the Family Engagement Workgroup has a recommendation to present to ELAC:

1. **Family Engagement** – Chris Whitmire, co-chair presented detail of the workgroup’s process, a family engagement information framework and the official recommendation to ELAC. The workgroup initially researched background on family engagement (FE), including a look at RTT-ELC states and found some trends. Several models for input were considered, including the Head Start and Strengthening Families FE framework. The Group also reviewed the work of Joyce Epstein. The group then began to work on defining a draft aligned with the recently-approved Kindergarten readiness definition. (handouts attached)

Questions/ Changes/ Modifications from ELAC members:

1. Suggestion that “Support Parents as Child’s First Teacher” should be sequenced as Goal #1.
2. Question of Parents vs. Family – with many types of families today- group wants to respect parents but include all family structures.
3. It was suggested that the first aspect of the definition should be parents –since parents are a child’s first teacher- change statement to say:
Families actively support their children’s learning and development and share the responsibility with early care and education providers who are committed to engage with families in meaningful, culturally respectful ways.
4. What are next steps? Group would like some baseline data of what family engagement is currently happening in Indiana and what do we need to do to support or fill in gaps.
5. Evaluation workgroup had presentation on how evaluator for EEMG grant is measuring family engagement. Measuring family communications, family interactions and provider

interactions with families. Using 3 tools that are family friendly and would encourage group to ask Michael Conn-Powers to share instruments with FE work group. He is member of Family Engagement Workgroup and that request will be made.

Motion was made by Melanie to amend recommendation by moving of 3rd bullet under goals to first to reflect parents as first teacher, and modifying the definition to move families actively supporting to the beginning of the sentence (as documented above). Beckie seconded. ELAC approved with amendments. Family Engagement workgroup was thanked for all their hard work.

2. **Funding Streams** – Melanie Brizzi reported as a member of the workgroup. This group has focused their recent work on preparing answers to the questions for the Legislative Summer Study Committee meeting this past Monday, October 6, 2014, as many of the questions dealt with funding.

Question #1 - Study the feasibility of obtaining block grant and necessary waivers under the federal Head Start program to establish an early learning scholarship program or another type of alternative program.

Question #2 - Study the feasibility of obtaining a Child Care and Development Block grant or other federal funds to fund prekindergarten or early learning education programs in Indiana.

Information was conveyed to the Study Committee that it was clearly determined there is not a waiver available under Head Start or repurposing feasibility for CCDBG funds.

Question #3 - Study options for funding prekindergarten or early learning programs, including opportunities to partner with business, philanthropic or community leaders.

The recommendation to the Study Committee was while business, philanthropic and community leaders play a critical role in pilot funding of prekindergarten or early learning programs, these private funds lack sufficient resources for sustainability. Additionally many have restrictions which require them to be focused on their local community. FS workgroup feels private funders are better positioned to support through other avenues such as capacity building, quality improvement, innovation and other ancillary services rather than direct services. The Workgroup is currently gathering baseline details of what streams currently exist within the state. That information will help us look at the available blending, braiding and layering of funding streams for sustainability.

Question #10 - Study opportunities to partner with an investment group or entity to establish an investment fund or vehicle to finance early education in Indiana.

The recommendation to the Study Committee was to continue to look at alternative sources of funding being used elsewhere, including a feasibility study of Social Impact Bonds/Social Impact Investing.

3. **Provider Participation and Advancement** – Melanie Brizzi

This group has been working on creating the additional pathway for public schools on Paths to QUALITY™. At their last meeting, the group presented to the governance structure within Paths to QUALITY™ - coordination and oversight committee. Having been approved by that committee, the group is now working on supporting documents, processes, software enhancements and supports needed for implementation. Enrollment for public schools within the 5 pilot counties should begin soon. At this time only schools located within the pilot counties are eligible for this additional pathway process and in January we will review and modify if needed before opening for other public schools throughout state. Level one for public schools is Provider Eligibility Standards Certification (PES) and if a school wants to engage now outside of the 5 counties, they can begin the process to be PES certified and be ready to go in January.

Questions:

1. Will the Office and partners be in a position to handle additional schools in January?
This is the reason for the pilot with the 4 counties that can do a January start date – to test the system’s ability to make all supports available to schools that are made available to other PTQ providers, and to assess the caseloads of coaches and raters.

2. Do you know how many programs/classrooms will be involved?

We do not; it depends on their choice to participate and their structure - # of classrooms and locations.

4. Workforce and Professional Development –Dianna Wallace – One of our subcommittees is now analyzing workforce data from workforce regions around the state and putting together their plan for the year. Our meeting in Nov will look at projections to 2020 related to occupational codes and regions. Head Start data – qualifications and # of positions and Early Intervention data will also be included. We just received from DWD supply and demand information for field. This will enable comparisons of positions as well as the supply and demand. Recommendations and findings will be shared at January ELAC meeting. This group was also charged to conduct an inventory of higher education opportunities across the state of Indiana. The group has engaged with the Center for Childcare Employment at UC Berkley. IAEYC hosted a Higher Education Forum meeting on Sept. 5th, where a letter was drafted asking all deans throughout state to participate in the inventory. The inventory will complete a mapping of all degrees, credentials and certificates offered along with competencies and expertise and experience of faculty. Inventories will be conducted Jan-March 2015. A draft will be available for the June ELAC meeting, highlighting areas to celebrate and what work needs to be done. There is an anticipated need for high level Infant/Toddler certification classes. UC Berkley will also be conducting 2 additional sections on mathematics and family engagement with funds from a Foundation in California. We are the third state ELAC to complete this inventory with UC Berkley. Dianna expressed it is very rare for a state to have one community college – one strong community college, along with very dedicated, passionate higher education institutions. Indiana has 14 Early Childhood articulation agreements between the community college and 4 year institutions offering 60 Associate credit hours that articulate into an Early Childhood Bachelors Degree with the completion of remaining 60 credit hours. This is a real cost savings. This

workgroup will hold themselves accountable in looking at the workforce in relationship to the projection of the children and families and demographic information about those families.

5. **Data Coordination**- Kevin Bain reported in Charlie Grier's absence as he attended last workgroup. This workgroup is tasked with looking at developing longitudinal data system – how we can access the data that is already there and how it can be easily retrieved and what query functions are available. The group is looking to tap into existing structures and pieces of similar work already in place or planned. A survey asking for priority data needs was completed by various stakeholders with great results and the group is now narrowing down and grouping questions to get to the leading data questions that need to be asked. This group is working with INK (Indiana Network of Knowledge) a P-20 data warehouse that is a cross section of the workforce and the education system – not to duplicate but pull it all together to allow access by stakeholders. They are currently looking at framework and governance and who will supervise the dissemination of data. This group has also been working on the data section of the federal preschool development grant that is due very soon. They have added an attorney to the group for privacy issues and structuring MOU's and that attorney will also address confidentiality of information.
6. **Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes** – Kevin Bain reported as co-chair of this committee. In August this group recommended the specific tools for the longitudinal study for the 5 county PreK pilot program. Now the group is tasked with looking at a broader Kindergarten Readiness Assessment with multiple additional domains and has researched what other states are doing. The group identified 7 state models to consider which actually encompasses many more states, since many are parts of consortia working together on KRA's. During yesterday's meeting, the group narrowed their focus to 3 models to look at more in depth – Ohio/Maryland Consortium, Florida and Washington State. Kevin discussed the reasons for choosing each model. It was decided by the workgroup to include ISTAR-KR with other models since it is free and developed within our state. The group will be reaching out to responsible parties involved with the assessments within those states to determine cost, training and additional information about their assessments. The group should have a recommendation to ELAC in December.

Question:

1. Is there representation from Head Start on the committee as there is a long history of Teaching Strategies Gold? Yes, there is representation.
7. **Child Development and Well Being** –Connie Sherman reported at the last ELAC meeting; the kindergarten readiness definition was approved. The group is now working on implementation of the definition and standards and plan on looking to the Washington State website for guidance. This group is also looking to review the early learning standards and alignment with K-3 and ELL and health components. DOE has been working on revisions to align the early learning standards to K-12.

EEMG Updates: Melanie provided an update on attendance for the current EEMG sites. There are currently 29 sites operating and 414 children attending. Slots are still available in a few programs and they are filling daily. Part time programs have had issues filling slots. Transportation has been an issue for part time. Four centers in Muncie actually pooled their resources and are sharing transportation to

deal with this issue. Centers are submitting success stories each week of ways the program is making a difference and one was shared about a group taking a bus trip (the first time on a bus for many) for a nature walk (some had never heard the sounds of nature).

Questions:

1. Asked about numbers applied for compared to numbers enrolled? Anticipated numbers were in the 484 range. Melanie explained that a couple of programs projected spots prior to release of additional CCDF funds and no longer have the slots available for the EEMG grant children.
2. There were originally 30 sites and only 29 were mentioned? There is a site that has had issues with turnover of their director and health issues for their executive director, so they have not been able to utilize their funds. We are working with them to see if they will be able to participate.

Melanie explained any funding not expended will be rolled into the second round; a second round RFF will be released in late October. There are not any major changes to the grant. However, the EEMG providers within the 5 pilot counties (Allen, Lake, Marion, Jackson and Vanderburgh) will not be eligible to apply for a second round of EEMG funds to assure capacity within the pilot counties and to assure there are not conflicting funding streams within those counties. Current EEMG providers, not in 5 pilot counties, may apply for a second year and then any remaining funds will be made available to new programs not in the 5 pilot counties.

Decisions will be made by late January, knowing how long the contract process takes. EEMG Evaluators are completing the pre-assessment of close to 300 EEMG children. Evaluation should be available next summer.

2014 Legislation Update: HEA 1004 Pre-K Pilot grants Melanie reported the kick-off meeting was Sept. 24th with the 5 pilot counties. The program design of the pilot was rolled out and now we are working on capacity building at the local level and getting public schools on Paths to QUALITY™ through the additional pathway. The office is also finalizing the application process for families and providers. We anticipate provider applications to be available sometime in November with 4 of 5 counties having early start date of January. The process will be repeated for families in spring for school year, with a start date of August 2015. Provider enrollment will be ongoing by contacting our office and we will keep a web based list of eligible providers. The RFP has been released for the longitudinal study and is in the scoring process.

Questions:

1. Can you explain the match component and is it based on the number of targeted children by county? The question really is how will the budget allocation work? This is somewhat of a moving target, similar to the CCDF allocations. We will look at the 5 counties times the percent of children in need. Available capacity will also be matched with availability of the required county match. We must be flexible due to capacity, match and uptake – parameters at the county level.
2. What is the time frame for budget allocations? Mid Nov. we will meet with counties to scan slots available for January – then average cost matched to match dollars
3. Evaluation Timeline – decision by the end of the year – recommendation must go to State Board of Education for approval

Clarification – Pre-K pilot eligibility is 127% federal poverty level and EEMG is 100% of federal poverty level.

Preschool Development Grant – due Oct. 14th Melanie reported the writing team has completed and in review process with governor’s office for final consideration. This is a multi-year opportunity of up to \$20 million per year to states serving fewer than 10% of population in pre-k, as a development grant. It is a competitive grant and we are much further along than with the earlier RTT application.

Other Business: Kevin thanked all who testified for the legislative summer study commission on behalf of ELAC. We presented a very comprehensive document to the committee, and there were many individuals involved in the process. James Betley, Marissa Manlove, Chris Whitmire, Andy Goebel and John Pierce were recognized for their testimonies.

Melanie announced there is a lot of information on the ELAC webpage (<http://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4842.htm>). It is being reformatted and hopefully information will be easier to find. Please let us know if there are requests and we will do our best to accommodate.

Meeting adjourned at: 2:23pm

Next meeting Friday, November 14, 2014 1:00-3:00pm Conference Room 2 Indiana Government Center.