

Early Learning Advisory Committee
Minutes
November 14, 2014

Call to Order 1:07 pm

Present:

Melanie Brizzi
Charlie Geier
Beckie Minglin
Alonzo Weems
Connie Sherman

Absent:

John Burnett
Kevin Bain
Tammy Veselsky

Guests:

Amanda Lopez
Keith Reissaus

Melanie opened the meeting by extending her sympathies to Kevin Bain, whose mother-in-law passed away this week and is unable to attend. As a result, Melanie was asked to Chair the meeting today.

I. Review of Minutes

Beckie motioned to approve. Charlie second. Minutes were approved.

Melanie noted that the agenda is now posted one week in advance of the ELAC meeting. Melanie also noted that the minutes will be posted the Monday after the ELAC meeting (pending ELAC meeting approval). Melanie also noted the location of finding the meeting agenda information on FSSA's website ELAC page:

<http://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4842.htm>.

At the bottom of the page under meetings, you will find the agenda and minutes by date. Next meeting times, dates and room numbers are updated for each meeting also. We do want to make sure that anyone who wants to be engaged in the work that we are doing can provide

II. Workgroup Updates:

Funding Streams – Amanda said no update since they did not meet in October. The next workgroup meeting is Tuesday, November 18th.

Provider Participation and Advancement – Melanie said that the workgroup has been very busy working to determine a pathway for charter schools to be engaged in Paths to QUALITY. Melanie said that they have learned that Pre-k is not included in the charter school "charter". A promising model is a partnership between charter schools and community-based Pre-k programs. The next workgroup meeting is going to dig into private school participation in Paths to QUALITY.

Workforce Update – Amanda noted that the workgroup received early childhood education workforce data from the Department of Workforce development. The next workgroup

Early Learning Advisory Committee meeting will focus on creating the current state of Indiana's early childhood workforce based on the data collected and pathways for education and career advancement.

Data Coordination and System Integration – Charlie said that workgroup met in October and is taking November off. The workgroup is looking at the questions that they need to align data to by linking multiple data systems. Right now the workgroup is working on creating sub-questions of those essential questions. Then the workgroup will determine where the data is located to support those sub-questions and essential questions. The goal will be to create some smaller project plans and teams to map the data and get the information. With the addition of a new member that has a background in privacy issues, he will assist with ensuring that security and privacy matters meet the standards. The workgroup has also been working on and updating a research paper about the Statewide Longitudinal Data System, which the workgroup will come back and share with ELAC early in 2015.

Evaluation of Child Outcomes – Charlie shared that the workgroup is assessing available Kindergarten Readiness Assessments (KRAs) and Kindergarten Entry Assessments (KEAs) to implement for the Pre-k pilot. The workgroup has narrowed the process down to 4 potential assessments: Teaching Strategies Gold, Enhance Assessment Group (in Ohio), Florida's FLKRS and ECHOS, and ISTAR-KR (revised). The workgroup is currently processing the possible assessments and plans to make a recommendation for the next ELAC meeting in December.

Child Development and Well Being – Connie said the workgroup spent a significant amount of time reviewing the revised Foundations and providing feedback to IDOE. The workgroup will be looking at the Foundations at the next workgroup meeting as well as developing resource guides and tools for the guidelines once they are finalized for different stakeholder audiences.

Family Engagement – Keith noted that ELAC approved the new parent and family engagement framework at last month's meeting. The workgroup is now focused on developing guiding documents and tools available in early 2015. Melanie noted that Pre-k providers are very interested in any tools and resources for them to meet their statutory family engagement requirement (for those participating in the EEMG program and On MY Way Pre-k pilot). Charlie noted that the Indiana Department of Education now has a staff position, LeRoy Robinson, focused on Family and Community Engagement. LeRoy has joined the Family Engagement workgroup.

III. ELAC High Level Project Plan

Melanie introduced the new ELAC high level project plan that was projected on the screen. The project plan is intended to provide a six-month working plan for each workgroup and ELAC overall. Amanda noted that the project plan helps each workgroup plan their work and stay focused while also identifying the interconnectedness of the workgroups. Keith Reiasuas provided an example of how one of the family engagement's workgroup is dependent on the work of Child Development workgroups. Melanie noted that we will get a working draft posted that is readable (summarized to a one-page format) on the FSSA website.

IV. Early Education Matching Grant

Melanie provided an update on the status. Melanie noted that we have 30 grantees in 15 counties serving approximately 400 children. We did have difficulty filling the part-time slots. We had one part-time classroom that was transitioned to full-time. We have released the second round of EEMG funding. WE anticipate awarding approximately \$2,000,000 in grant awards. We do have some administrative costs, primarily in evaluation. If programs are current EEMG awardees not in one of the five pilot counties, they will not have to go through another round of applications. The grant application is due January 17th. We wanted to give as much time as possible for the applicants. Charlie asked how many current grantees plan to re-apply. Alonzo asked if the current grantees will be notified of the funding for year two. Melanie noted that the EEMG program is a real capacity builder opportunity for communities outside of the five pre-k pilot counties. We are hopeful that we will have a really great pool of potential grantees this round.

V. On My Way Pre-K Pilot

The roll out process has begun for On My Way Pre-K – Indiana’s first state funded pre-kindergarten program. Melanie noted that the pre-k pilot program has a new name – On My Way Pre-K and logo.



Melanie noted that the OECOSL opened up the enrollment process for providers in the five pilot counties. Providers can enroll with the state whenever they are meeting those eligibility standards. The applications are posted online. Interested providers need to complete and submit the provider application form and vendor form. Once their application has been reviewed, they will receive a provider agreement form to sign. The provider agreement is not finalized yet. Once signed, the provider will be included in the On My Way Pre-k provider eligibility list.

Next week, FSSA will release the family application. There is a pre-application for the lottery. Melanie noted the eligibility requirements: resident... FSSA will accept family applications from until December 15, 2014 for the January start date in four of the five pilot counties – Allen, Lake, Marion and Vanderburgh. Jackson county will begin programs along with these 4 counties in August 2015.

The families will submit their application to their local intake office.

There will be an automated lottery process that will begin on December 17th. A family can choose any provider that is included in the list of approved On My Way Pre-k Providers. Providers can start serving eligible lottery families beginning in January and by the 19th.

The families will have a grant that can be used part-time, full-time, calendar year or school year. Reimbursement is based on the number of program hours offered. As a provider, they can choose to set the number of hours.

We anticipate 350 children served in January and 1,600 in August.

Charlie notes the importance of providers to keep asking questions. The more questions we get, the more guidance we can provide. Indiana Department of Education is getting inundated with phone calls from public schools and charter schools about the pre-k pilot.

Melanie noted that the partnerships with FSSA and IDOE are working well. For public schools especially, conversations and information is being shared about how to “layer” and “braid” funding to serve the maximum number of children. FSSA and IDOE both have FAQ documents posted and will continue to be updated.

Charlie noted that Marion County may also have a pre-k program passed by city-county council. Is FSSA having conversations with them? Melanie noted that it is really about using current funding to make sure that we are maximizing available funding and serve families best.

Melanie noted the trainings that have been developed.

Ted Maple, guest, asked for clarification around the pathway for charter schools. Melanie responded by explaining the process for developing an additional pathway for traditional public schools. Melanie noted that the process for charter schools is different, because their charter does not cover pre-k. The pathway for charter schools is licensing or partnership with a community-based provider. Melanie noted that the same is true of private schools. Private schools can enter On My Way Pre-k through accreditation as long as the accreditation covers pre-k. A private school can enter PTQ through licensure or registered ministry status (if it is faith-based) or through a partnership with a community-based program.

VI. Longitudinal Study of Pre-k Pilot

Received proposals and currently evaluating. Plan to make a selection in December.

VII. Other Business

Melanie asked if there is other public comment for new business.

Melanie noted that we have a new ELAC Glossary. ELAC plans to send it out to workgroup members to review and revise. Then we will post it online with the ELAC information. Melanie noted that to work together effectively we all need to speak the same language and that is the purpose of the ELAC Glossary.

Closing:

Charlie motioned to end the meeting. Alonzo second. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:54pm.