

INDIANA EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AUGUST 8, 2014

Call to Order 1:01 pm

Committee Members Present:

Kevin Bain  
Melanie Brizzi  
Charlie Geier  
Beckie Minglin  
Alonzo Weems  
Connie Sherman

Committee Members Absent:

Tammy Veselsky  
John Burnett

Guests:

Megan Purcell

Review of Minutes

Minutes from July 11, 2014 were approved without amendment.

**I. Workgroup Updates**

Process: Kevin provided an overview and structure for workgroup updates as follows: each meeting there should be a brief 3-5 minute update from one of the co-chairs from each workgroup. Some months there will be presentations from workgroups with specific recommendations to ELAC. There is a standard template used for recommendations and after the presentation there will be time for questions and answers. Kevin discussed how the recommendation process will work:

First ---Workgroup brings recommendation to ELAC

Next---Open dialogue occurs

Then---ELAC can

1. Reject recommendation or
2. Agree with recommendation or
3. ELAC can “tweak” the recommendation

This month the Evaluation workgroup has a recommendation of tools to be used for the kindergarten readiness assessment component of the longitudinal study. Upon approval by ELAC, per the statute, this recommendation will be sent to the State Board of Education for approval.

#### Workgroup Updates:

1. Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes –Megan Purcell, Purdue University, distributed the recommendation (attachment) and supporting documents. This group was charged with exploring options for the assessment of child outcomes in the Pre-K pilot. The process involved reviewing the ‘universe’ of standardized, validated options, narrowing those options to a list for further investigation, and compiling a list of finalists for the workgroup to consider for final recommendations. The workgroup vote yesterday recommends the Peabody PVT, Bracken and Social/Emotional portion of the ISTAR-KR. The workgroup identified the three domains of language, cognitive and social emotional. The Peabody PPV and Bracken on demand will give quantitative results pre and post with the ISTAR-KR adding supporting documentation observationally. It was emphasized that this is only for the pilot’s longitudinal study; the workgroup’s next charge is to research and recommend KRA tools that could be used more broadly.

The floor was opened for questions and discussion.

The question was raised as to why there are not more observational tools used when that is best practice in Early Childhood? Given the various stakeholders interested in the outcomes, there was a sense that it would be important to include tools administered by the evaluator, as an objective 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment. This is particularly true given that both pre and post measurements of progress will (per the statute) happen during the pre-K year, not in kindergarten. Consequently, the workgroup moved towards including more “on demand” measurements. To address concerns about creating an uncomfortable environment for the child, the RFP will include a section on how the evaluator would incorporate best practices for this type of research to assure the child’s comfort and familiarity with evaluator.

Another question was raised about using all of ISTAR-KR rather than just one domain. For the pilot longitudinal study, the workgroup determined that 3 domains would be sufficient. A social emotional tool was identified as one of those 3 domains, and it was decided to use that part of the ISTAR-KR to fill this need.

As discussion continued, it was suggested that the recommendation be reworded to say *at a minimum* the evaluator will use the social emotional piece, but they may consider and discuss augmenting the assessment with other aspects of the full ISTAR-KR data being collected. There was a question of how the workgroup would feel if the full ISTAR-KR was considered and Megan felt the workgroup would be comfortable with this amendment.

A question was raised as to how the 3 instruments will work together to give the answer whether the child is ready. While there is no ‘yes this child is ready’ or ‘no this child is not ready’, the quantitative numbers from PPFVT and Bracken will give scores that can be compared pre and post. These instruments do not have cut scores per se; these scores show more of a

progression - growth and progress. The focus of the longitudinal study is to compare the control group with the pilot children on these measures.

The Chairman concluded that the consensus of the group was to collect the full ISTAR-KR. Consequently, there was a Motion made to amend the Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes workgroup's

Recommendation:

ELAC recommends the Full ISTAR be collected and consideration of additional elements from ISTAR that might be used in evaluation will be discussed with evaluator. At a minimum the evaluator will use the social emotional data of the ISTAR-KR.

Vote: 5 yes 0 no Motion approved by ELAC.

The Chairman asked Megan to convey deep and sincere appreciation to the workgroup.

2. Child Development and Well Being – Connie Sherman reported the workgroup is working on a broad statement defining kindergarten readiness and will meet next week to finalize. They will make a recommendation on a definition for school readiness for ELAC's consideration next month.
3. Family Engagement – Kevin reported on behalf of the workgroup. The workgroup is developing an overview of parental involvement opportunities, such as the benefits of reading to children and what is needed to help parents. They plan to recommend a family engagement framework for the preschool pilot and are looking at parental involvement initiatives used by states receiving Race to the Top funding. They plan to provide an initial draft to the guiding team for discussion next month.
4. Provider Participation and Advancement- Melanie Brizzi reported the group is finalizing the additional pathway for traditional public schools to participate in Paths to QUALITY (PTQ). A question was raised about a comprehensive glossary that could be a standard reference tool for broad use, including selectively in PTQ marketing materials. Transform Consulting Group has received input from a variety of sources, and a draft updated glossary should be ready soon..
5. Workforce and Professional Development – Dianna Wallace reported that the Workforce subcommittee recently met with a representative from the Department of Workforce Development to identify the standard occupational codes (SOC) related to the Early Childhood Education (ECE) workforce. Once this data is collected, the workgroup hopes to better understand the current and future picture of the ECE workforce. Their next meeting will review the Higher Education Inventory that is being completed over the next year by the University of Berkley's Center for the Study of Child Care Employment. This inventory will gather information concerning competencies within ECE degrees and if there are sufficient classes to meet the needs, along with other Higher Education statistics.
6. Funding Streams- Kyle Wehmann, ELAC project management support, reported on behalf of co-chairs who could not attend. The group is reviewing the legislative summer study commission questions including preschool funding opportunities, social impact bonds, and utilization of Head Start and Child Care Development Block grant federal funding.
7. Data Coordination-Charlie Geier reported that they are developing a 6-month work plan, including what questions need to be asked locally and statewide; what data questions are the federal government asking; and what input is needed from stakeholders? Based on those

responses, the group will look at critical data elements to collect –then map those to what additional data needs to be collected in Indiana. Part of that process will include understanding what data is already being collected by various agencies and where the data resides. The workgroup’s formal report will be available in December but process updates can inform the legislative summer study commission as well.

## **II. Early Education Matching Grant Update**

Melanie Brizzi reported that contracts have been mailed to the Early Education Matching Grant (EEMG) grantees, and the office is beginning to receive signed contracts back. There is ongoing training for EEMG grantees on the use of ISTAR-KR. This week, the Office rolled out the utilization of an online communication and file sharing system – Wiggio - with the grantees. Beth Barrett Preschool Program Manager, reported programs are moving forward with enrollments and some are full. The group was very open to Wiggio on a conference call yesterday and ready to work together. Kevin asked if there is still a second release of EEMG grants planned for later this fall and Melanie confirmed there would be.

## **III. 2014 Legislation Update for HEA 1004**

Melanie Brizzi reported that five counties have been announced for the PreK pilot, including Allen, Lake, Marion, Jackson and Vanderburgh. A call was held with the 13 finalist counties that were not selected. A call with the five pilot counties will be held next week to answer questions and discuss next steps. The Office has engaged the five local intake agencies that are responsible for administering the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) vouchers to also screen for family eligibility for the PreK pilot. Indiana’s Intake agencies have the lowest error rate in the country, so they are best qualified to do the job. The Office is planning a full-day conference for the PreK pilot counties and has set the date for Sept 24<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis.

The longitudinal study RFP for the evaluation of the PreK pilot will be released today or Monday. A preconference meeting for this RFP will be Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup>. Responses are due late September.

Alonzo Weems noted the following: since the pre-k pilot requires the engagement of families, ELAC needs to look at how the workgroup on family engagement will feed this information to the pilot. ELAC will add this to this workgroup’s agenda.

John Pierce from Allen County reported their community plans to create workgroups to mirror the ELAC workgroups and to align all the work in the county and state. He thanked Melanie for staying in touch with all of the counties.

## **IV. Other Business**

Kevin asked if anyone has heard a date for the federal Preschool Development Grant announcement, and Charlie reported he doesn’t expect it until early fall.

Kevin announced the importance of attendance for Committee members at the next meeting in September, because there will be many recommendations brought from workgroups. ELAC will need a quorum to make decisions, so be sure to mark your calendar and plan on attending!

Kevin thanked Megan for coming and being the first workgroup member to present a recommendation to ELAC – forging the pathway for others to follow!

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32pm.

The next meeting will be Friday, September 12, 2014 at 1:00pm.