

EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 12, 2014

Call to Order 1:05 pm

Present:	Absent:
Kevin Bain	Tammy Veselsky
Melanie Brizzi	John Burnett
Charlie Geier	
Beckie Minglin	Guests:
Alonzo Weems	Beth Barrett
Connie Sherman	Carrie Bales

Review of Minutes

Minutes from August 8, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Kevin explained the bulk of these meetings is to update the full ELAC on the work progressing within each of the ELAC workgroups. Each meeting, each of the 7 workgroups will give a brief progress update. At selected meetings, there will be a specific recommendation from a workgroup, asking ELAC to approve the recommendation. We have one of those today from the Child Development and Well Being workgroup. There will be a brief presentation from a member of the workgroup, with background information on how they came to that recommendation. The floor will then be open for questions and clarification, and then ELAC has the latitude to approve, amend or to send back to the workgroup for additional work.

1. Child Development and Well Being – Carrie Bales presented the recommendation to the ELAC for the Definition of Kindergarten Readiness:

“In Indiana we work together so that every child can develop to his or her fullest potential - socially, emotionally, physically, cognitively and academically. Through growth in all these domains, the child will become a healthy, capable, competent and powerful learner.”

Carrie thanked co-chairs Connie Sherman and Ena Shelly for leading the group and explained the background and process the workgroup took to come to this recommended definition. (*attachments –recommendation form)

Questions from ELAC:

1. What is the makeup of the workgroup – who are the members and different stakeholders represented? Answer: There is wide representation geographically with members from school districts, early childhood programs, United Way, IYI, Nurse family partnerships, department of health, community initiatives, , IT mental health, pediatrician, higher education and legislative staff.
2. 2. How do we envision this definition being used? Answer: The definition, while crafted as a vision, lends itself to the development of specifics. Specifics will be covered through work on the revised standards. The group’s next steps will be to

receive the new 0-5 standards (Foundations) from DOE in October; this work on Foundations is designed to link to the K-12 standards. Once completed, the new standards will be forwarded to the Child Development workgroup for their Oct. 29th meeting. Kevin stated another use for the definition will be to share with other workgroups to mold their work. The definition is also an important element of the application for the federal Developmental Grant. The definition also feeds into the Evaluation workgroup, to guide alignment with a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. This definition will also be added to the comprehensive glossary of early childhood definitions currently being formulated.

3. What did you learn from the process of crafting the definition? Answer: There was much discussion about each word in the definition. The first draft was much lengthier, and proved to be too specific. The second attempt was broadened and by doing so, there was a mutual consensus from the group.

A motion was made by Beckie to accept the definition; Alonzo seconded. The recommendation was approved. Kevin asked to convey to workgroup the ELAC's thanks.

2. Funding Streams— Amanda Lopez reported for the group. The workgroup is preparing to answer the summer study commission questions – 5 of the 10 touch on funding issues. The legislative summer study commission will meet on October 6th to discuss the 10 questions included in HEA 1004. There will be a response from the workgroup to the commission on these questions. Kevin commented this is a very complex issue which will require understanding the various components and looking at what other states are successfully doing. A common theme associated with what other states are finding helpful is the layering and blending of funding resources.
3. Family Engagement – Keith Reissaus, co-chair, indicated their workgroup is still finalizing their framework. Next week there will be a sub-committee meeting to take work product from other meetings to bring it all together. An investigation of models such as Head Start, Family Strengthening, Dual Capacity, and RTT frameworks will be helpful input. The workgroup plans to present the framework to ELAC on Oct. 10th and also working on questions 5 and 6 for the summer study commission on how we will engage parents and families. Keith reported the focus is on the parent as first teacher. It was suggested and agreed that seeking direct input from parents would add to this group's discussions. As part of the discussion, it was emphasized that both pilots – the EEMG and the pre-K pilot – place emphasis on family engagement.
4. Provider Participation and Advancement – Melanie Brizzi reported the group met and finalized the additional PTQ pathway recommendations for traditional public schools. This pathway honors what the schools are already doing, reduces the duplication of effort and maintains the validity of the PTQ system. The next step is to take the pathway to the PTQ Oversight Committee (legislatively responsible) for approval next week and we will hope to roll out a draft at the Pre-K Pilot kick-off meeting on September 24th to prepare schools for early January implementation. Melanie explained that different providers have different requirements and paths INTO the PTQ system. –Level 1 is the entry point into PTQ and we are looking to remove

any entry barriers for traditional public schools. Level 2, 3 and 4 stay the same – the ability to advance through the levels will depend on whether they are meeting the standards at each level – level 2 (e.g., staff education) and level 3 (e.g., curriculum). Question: how long it will take to progress to a level sufficient for pilot participation? Melanie explained it is hard to come up with a time frame – the coaches will work to move them quickly and everyone has the ability to fast track. Providers can work through levels, with 6 month waiting period between levels – but the speed of progress is largely provider-driven. The committee has revised their member list to assure there is full representation of providers including charter, private schools and community programs.

5. Workforce and Professional Development – Dianna Wallace reported they have had 2 meetings and one event. They are focusing on gathering data with the IN Dept. of Workforce Development which uses their national standard occupational codes. We also have pulled in data from First Steps on the numbers of individuals in that field and projected out to 2020 how many will be needed to perform that work. Question: is there a way to look at projections related to children including the ethnicity of families compared to the workforce makeup? The group will pull the available data on ethnicity. The event was last Friday's Higher Education Forum bringing together over 50 higher education institutions. As part of it, we also engaged in a Higher Education Inventory that is a joint effort with other partners. The Center for Childcare Employment from UC Berkley will be providing collective findings in June. An early look at projections in Indiana suggest that we are looking at a significant shortfall in the field, given the 25% growth rate with a shortage of credentials to fill positions and lack of parity with compensation vs alternatives. Melanie asked for an update on T.E.A.C.H. and how it is helping meet demand. Dianna reported they have been blessed to have support from BCC to support **Teacher Education and Compensation Helps** scholarships for 14 years. Available to individuals working 30 hours or more in a licensed, legally exempt or registered childcare setting, this is a scholarship that partners with their sponsoring employer. The scholarships pay 80% of tuition and books and a travel stipend to support college credit based coursework to obtain a credential or Associate or Bachelor degree in Early Childhood Education. The individual then commits to remain at that sponsoring employer and stay in the field. The committee also is able to engage in the national work supported by the Kellogg Foundation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children to bring greater attention to the field of Early Childhood Education. Over the next 3 years the plan is to foster a national movement very similar to the nursing profession – to bring more attention to field.
6. Data Coordination- Charlie reported the group is moving quickly to get information for the Federal Preschool Development grant. Data structures and collection area key piece of that grant. The group has brought in other experts and the group has been working on drafting a research brief, incorporating the strengths of our Race to the Top application. They are hopeful the grant will provide the necessary funding for the development of a SLEDS system. Charlie has asked the group for feedback on the brief. The group is looking for an attorney candidate to join their group and advise on best practice handling of data.

7. Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes - Kevin reported for this group. This group had a recommendation last meeting of 3 standardized measures used to track outcomes in the longitudinal study for the Pre-K pilot. (PPVT, Bracken and ISTAR-KR) The group is now beginning a dialogue to use these tools as an element of an outcomes based accountability system for providers in the pilot. Part of that dialogue will be to draw upon evaluator expertise – focusing on a child’s progress rather than a cut score. Other discussions are focused on a potential statewide KRA –that would incorporate additional domains. We have narrowed our search to 7 state models for further study – which represents up to 25 states, as many are consortiums. Hopefully we will get down to 3 or 4 for further investigation as input into the development grant application due on Oct. 14th.

Kevin thanked all for their participation and work in the workgroups.

Early Education Matching Grant Update- 2013 Legislation – Melanie reported there were 30 grants awarded in 15 counties – serving an additional 484 4 year olds in high quality early childhood programs this year. There will be a second round of grants in late October to extend current providers for another year and/or for new applicants. This will again be a competitive RFF process. Providers must be level 3 or 4 on PTQ and meet additional quality standards and there is a 50/50 cash match required. These grants go to the provider directly, and the provider recruits, determines eligibility and enrolls families. The current awardees are progressing well in filling slots. To aid in recruitment, we sent letters to parents of 4 year olds in those counties on the CCDF waitlist to help fill slots. The IU evaluation team was awarded the evaluation for this grant and will be completing the assessment of these students.

2014 Legislation Update: HEA 1004 Pre-K Pilot grants – Per Melanie Brizzi, 5 counties were awarded: Allen, Lake, Marion, Jackson and Vanderburgh. We are finalizing policies and procedures for the program. 4 of the 5 counties have indicated they would be ready to begin with a small cohort in January 2015, followed by a second cohort beginning in July 2015 for the school year. We are finalizing the software and working with county leadership teams to make sure at the local level that activities are taking place to raise matching funds, engage and recruit families, build capacity and engage community stakeholders. We have a full day kick off meeting planned for September 24th to give guidance to the counties on specifics. Kevin asked if where the match can be directed will be covered? Melanie responded that will be discussed on the 24th. There has been an RFP released by IDOA for the evaluator and those are due back the end of September. These will be scored and a recommendation will be made to the State BOE. Kevin asked if the evaluator can choose whether or not to use the first cohort – with only ½ year intervention? Melanie responded that the RFP asked for the evaluator to specify how this will be handled. We hope to have a recommendation in the November State BOE meeting.

Preschool Development Grant – due Oct. 14th Melanie gave an update of where we are on the grant application. The team crafting the application includes Charlie/DOE, and numerous ELAC workgroup members. Indiana is eligible for up to \$20 million each year for up to 4 years. We feel like we are well situated -but it is a competitive grant. Amanda Lopez and her group are assisting with the writing. There is a Head start meeting next week to add their work to the grant – we want to be sure to portray all of Indiana’s cross sector cooperation in this work. The grant is a joint offering from Department of

Education and Health and Human Services. Income eligibility is set at 200% of the Federal Poverty level. This is a great opportunity to build on current efforts with 65% of the funds going to fund slots, and up to 35 % for capacity building. This piece would include funding for a SLEDS (statewide longitudinal data system), assessment tools, and outcome based standards. The grant application also validates our existing strengths in Indiana, with its emphasis on a mixed delivery system. There is a specific definition of high quality programs, including a full day program (min. 5 hrs per day) with a bachelor-degreed teacher and compensation parity with public schools. Alonzo asked how many states are eligible? 15 states are eligible for the developmental grants and 5-8 grants will be awarded. Charlie commented that all 15 states will not apply so the odds are greater. The team is also reaching out for letters of support and commitment to include with the grant.

Other Business: Kevin mentioned again the summer study commission on Oct. 6th as a great opportunity to address 10 specific areas – 9 of the 10 areas are addressed within ELAC workgroups. Data will be shared that workgroups have gathered, aligning their work to address these areas in the statute. As workgroups pull the packet together for the summer study, they may need help from ELAC members to assist with feedback and clarification. No other new business. Kevin thanked everyone again for a year of a lot of great work!

Meeting adjourned at: 2:28pm

Next meeting Friday, October 10, 2014 Conference Room 2 Indiana Government Center.