

# Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC)

## Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2014

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

Absent: Tammy Veselsky, John Burnett

Guests: Amanda Lopez

Next meeting: Friday, May 9, 2014 from 1-3 p.m. in the Indiana Government Center South Conference Center

### 1. Announcements

N/A

### 2. Discussion

#### 1. Review of Minutes from last meeting, held March 7, 2014:

The minutes were approved.

#### 2. Brief Overview of Early Education Matching Grant Application Results

Amanda Lopez updated the committee on the EEMG RFF application results.

The grant applications were received from 17 counties, both large and small, from the Northern, Central, and Southern geographical regions defined loosely as Northern being above Tippecanoe county; Southern being below Monroe/Bartholomew counties; and Central in between. The applications combined are proposing to serve 600 children.

56 percent of applicants are on Level 4 of Paths to QUALITY™ and 44 percent are on Level 3. 84 percent of the applicants selected full-time programming; 15 percent selected part-time; and 1 applicant selected both. The average cost per child for full-time programming was \$6,296 and \$4,173 for part time.

The proposed matching funds exceeded the 1 to 1 requirement. \$1,809,000 was requested, and \$1,835,000 was secured. A portion of the originally-designated \$2 million will be used for the EEMG Evaluation and administrative costs.

The Bureau of Child Care hopes to make a decision in approximately one week after following up with applicants for some clarifying information. Kevin announced that the ELAC will give final approval via conference call in mid-April. Once the awards are announced, provider agreements must be drafted and executed with the State. Programs will have an enrollment deadline of September 1, 2014. The contracts will be in place by August to allow time for ISTAR-KR training and other administrative activities. A question was raised about whether programs can do start up work and activities prior to the contract execution. Programs could do so using their matching funds, but would be operating at their own risk.

Kevin Bain expressed appreciation to the 19 application reviewers, the EEMG work group, and Amanda Lopez for the great work that was accomplished on behalf of ELAC.

### **3. Evaluation of the Early Education Matching Grant program**

BCC received two proposals for the EEMG evaluation. A team of three reviewers is currently in the process of scoring the applications and will be done scoring by April 11. The scores will be discussed with ELAC and the award will be made by the end of April. The contract will need to start at the same time as the EEMG program contracts. A question was raised about what would be evaluated. Melanie Brizzi informed the committee that the evaluation contract will be designed to look at the whole child beyond school readiness and will include teacher-child interactions, family engagement, and child outcomes, as well as compiling data for ISTAR-KR and developing summary reports.

### **4. Discussion of ELAC Workgroups**

Kevin began by expressing gratitude to those who volunteered to serve as workgroup co-chairs.

ELAC will have 7 workgroups. Over the last several weeks ELAC has been working to ensure the proper definitions, objectives, and primary goals are in place, as well as reaching out to potential co-chairs. The goal with recruiting co-chairs was to achieve balance by pairing content experts with individuals who bring a different perspective. The workgroups appear as discrete groups; however, there will be a lot of connections and communications needing to take place between and among them. ELAC is currently working on a project management mechanism for this.

*Data Coordination and System Building workgroup*—the interest here is to develop a coordination and handoff between the respective places where data resides, looking at children from birth through third grade. ELAC member Charlie Geier will co-chair. The other co-chair has not yet been secured. It was noted that Data Coordination represents a huge aspect of Race to the Top grant funding.

*Child Development and Well-being*—this workgroup will look at the initiatives for optimal development across multiple domains, not only to kindergarten but through third grade. Part of this group's responsibility will be to define kindergarten readiness. ELAC special advisor Connie Sherman and Ena Shelley from Ball State University will serve as co-chairs. ELAC is grateful for their services.

*Funding Streams*—this group will look at how grant funding is flowing into the state; ways that private dollars do and can flow in; barriers and opportunities to funding streams; as well as looking at the reach and effectiveness of the streams with a goal to reduce inefficiency. One co-chair will be James Betley from the Center for Education and Career Innovation. As for the second co-chair, ELAC is currently looking for another individual, preferably someone with a background in business and experience with process mapping as a way to identify and build efficiencies. Charlie Geier spoke to James Betley's qualifications and informed the committee that he was the co-author of the Early Education CEI document released earlier this year.

*Workforce and Professional Development*—in the last ELAC meeting, the scope of this workgroup was extended to include a focus on careers and competitive compensation. Co-chairs will be Dianna Wallace from the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children and ELAC special advisor John Burnett.

*Provider Participation and Advancement*—Katherine Raasch from MSD of Wayne Township and ELAC member Melanie Brizzi will serve as co-chairs for this workgroup and will be able to tap into the existing work being done.

*Family Engagement*—co-chair Keith Reissaus from Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana comes from a business background and is very involved in Nurse Family Partnerships. This workgroup will tap into family engagement from a broader perspective. Kevin has reached out to the other potential co-chair and is optimistic she will accept.

*Evaluation of Child/Family Outcomes*—the goals and objectives of this workgroup feed into other pilot initiatives

passed in recent legislative sessions. The co-chairs will be ELAC chair Kevin Bain and Megan Purcell from Purdue University.

Kevin also thanked those who have submitted names for consideration for participation in the workgroups. 120 unique individuals volunteered or were recommended. ELAC is currently in the process of placing people into workgroups. The committee is looking for broad geographic representation; broad discipline representation; and a wide array of distinct voices to ensure no one organization is overrepresented in a single group. Workgroup membership lists will be sent to the co-chairs in advance. Kevin is hopeful the co-chairs can hold initial workgroup meetings prior to the next ELAC meeting on May 9 to discuss span of control and scope of responsibilities.

A training workshop (“How Coalitions Work”) for the ELAC workgroups will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Day Nursery – Lilly Center. This training was suggested by ELAC special advisor John Burnett and will serve as a process framework for the workgroups so that there is some measure of consistency for their output and deliverables.

A question was raised about how long the workgroups will run. Kevin noted that he is looking at an 18 to 24 month commitment initially, when all of the “heavy lifting” will occur with framing and assigning. Kevin is looking for monthly meetings and requests that co-chairs convene face-to-face meetings during the initial stages. Another reason for urgency is that a report will be due to the legislative study committee in November and the workgroups will be able to provide input.

## **5. Legislative update**

Melanie Brizzi updated the committee on relevant legislation. It was a very exciting session, in particular because of HEA 1036, which impacts standards that unlicensed child care providers must meet to receive funding through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). Several categories were added to the existing statutes in the area of improved health and safety for children. One set of standards in 1036 will be effective July 2014, the other set will be effective July 2015. As of July 1, 2014: child care staff will receive their responsibility to report child abuse and neglect; child deaths and injuries must be reported to the Bureau of Child Care; licensed homes and registered ministries will have access to the child immunization database (CHIRP), as licensed centers already do. As of July 1, 2015, unlicensed child care programs must: have written policies around safe conditions on premise and during transportation; provide daily activities for children; provide nutritious meals and snacks; implement child-to-staff ratios; and obtain 12 hours of education on developmentally appropriate topics. BCC will be working on trainings to help providers with implementing ratios, working with the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), etc.

There was a question from the audience regarding how tiered CCDF reimbursement will tie in to new legislation. Melanie noted that there will be a significant increase to the CCDF reimbursement rates, but that there are a lot of complexities to this topic and that Indiana has thousands of market rates for child care, so when discussing reimbursement increases it is important to note the variability and the fact that not all providers will see an increase. FSSA will issue a press release on Monday, April 7. Rates are currently based on county, provider type, and child age; as of May 11, they will also be tiered according to the Paths to QUALITY level of the program. BCC is hopeful that this will promote participation and advancement in Paths to QUALITY, and also that more high-quality programs will be inclined to accept CCDF. BCC wants to ensure that families can afford the highest quality providers. BCC will be hosting a series of webinars beginning April 14<sup>th</sup> to address issues.

Another important piece of legislation passed is 1004, the pre-k pilot grants. There are still many unknowns at this point. There will be 5 pilot counties; they have not yet been identified. There is a \$10 million maximum in state funds and a match component of between 10 and 50 percent. The source of the match can also be state dollars, but the intent is to generate more funding, like with the EEMG. Also as with the EEMG, the goal is to supplement and not

supplant. The children served must be low-income four-year-olds; the poverty threshold will be at 127%; families must agree to participate in family engagement activities and minimum attendance; Programs must be on Level 3 or 4 of Paths to QUALITY or be a private school accredited by IDOE or a national body; programs must offer family engagement activities and use an assessment (ISTAR-KR); with a range of \$2,500 to \$6,800 per child. 1004 also establishes the longitudinal study and the pre-k and early learning study commission (with results due Nov. 1). One person from ELAC must sit on the commission.

#### **6. Report to Legislature**

Kevin reminded the committee that ELAC must report to the Governor and legislature by June 30<sup>th</sup>. He noted that even after just six months, there is still a lot to report. The EEMG can share baseline info for the State regarding access to high quality care. Establishing ELAC workgroups can also be reported. A question was raised about how ELAC will approach the needs assessment. It was noted that ELAC has engaged the Indiana Youth Institute to expand their Kids Count work.

#### **Other Business**

N/A. Meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.