

Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC)

Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2014

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

Absent: Melanie Brizzi, Tammy Veselsky, John Burnett

Guests: Amanda Lopez

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 from 12-2 p.m. in the Indiana Government Center South Conference Center

1. Announcements

N/A

2. Discussion

1. Review of Minutes from last meeting, held April 4, 2014:

Charlie Geier motioned to approve the minutes. Alonzo Weems seconded.

2. Early Education Matching Grant update

Amanda Lopez provided the committee with a one-page handout summarizing the applications received and the selected grantees. The RFF was issued in January and submissions were due in early March. It was an arduous process and a large sum of match was required. Despite this, 35 applications were received, and 34 of those met the mandatory requirements and were sent for full review. The applicants represented 17 different counties across Indiana. Of the applications reviewed, a total of \$1,809,568 in grant funds was requested, and a total of \$1,835,044.50 in matching funds from the community was secured. There was diversity in the type of early childhood education programs that applied, representing licensed family child care homes, registered ministries, licensed centers, and schools.

30 applicants have been selected to receive EEMG awards, and 484 children will be served through the grants in the 2014-2015 school year. A total of \$1,457,733.50 will be awarded. A total of \$1,539,859.50 in match funds was secured from a variety of private sources including foundations, United Way agencies, corporations, coalitions of public-private organizations, and individual donors. The majority of the grant awards will fund full-time programs, with 376 children enrolled in full-time programs and 108 enrolled in part-time programs. Grant funds will also be distributed across the state, with 5 grantees in the North region, 11 grantees in the Central region, and 14 grantees in the Southern region. The children will be at-risk children at or below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. While there were slightly more Paths to QUALITY™ Level 4 providers, the distribution of grants was fairly equal across Paths to QUALITY Level 3 and Paths to QUALITY Level 4 programs.

Kevin Bain congratulated those who worked on this and the team who reviewed it and expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of ELAC.

With nearly \$1.5 million awarded out of an original legislated amount of \$2 million, a large portion of the gap will go to administrative costs and the evaluation of the Grant program. Two entities responded to the RFF with applications for the EEMG Evaluation. The grant has been awarded to Indiana University. The evaluation will consist of five key components: evaluation of child outcomes, evaluation of parent engagement, evaluation of teacher-child interactions, compilation of ISTAR-KR data, and presentation and summary reports. It was noted that a subsequent meeting will be scheduled so that ELAC can receive a formal presentation from Michael Conn-Powers of IU.

Kevin Bain noted that ELAC will need to engage in ongoing discussions about the second year of grant funding and what the reallocation will look like.

3. Workgroup Kickoff --Kevin Bain

Since the last meeting on April 4, ELAC launched the workgroups who will be augmenting ELAC members and assisting with legislative duties. ELAC's first task was the EEMG but is also tasked with a variety of other responsibilities. The goal with the workgroups is to bring people together from around the state from a multitude of disciplines to ensure that all aspects of Early Childhood Education are systematically addressed.

A great workgroup kickoff meeting was held in Indianapolis on April 25th. Between 50 and 60 people attended to hear a presentation from the Institute for Coalition Building. Feedback received regarding the presentation was that it was helpful to get a sense of where ELAC is going but that it was also helpful to participants' "day jobs" in terms of learning more about how coalitions work. The How Coalitions Work framework was recommended as a great way for ELAC and its workgroups to internally keep activities together but also share the work that is being done with outside people, such as legislators, in a consistent and uniform way. The framework also gave an opportunity to summarize the objective of ELAC through three terms: accessibility, affordability, and high quality. The work is complex, but these terms capture how we want to move it forward. The objective is to use this framework, which includes a series of questions that each workgroup will answer. It is intuitively what we do anyway but gives a process to it. Kevin expressed many thanks on behalf of ELAC to the Institute on Coalition Building for presenting the information. More than 100 people have signed up and are engaged in this work, and each workgroup has 15-20 members representing all regions of the state.

Charlie Geier raised a question about administrative support for the workgroups and who would be organizing time and emails. Amanda Lopez will be helping in project management and is in the process of selecting an online portal that will offer calendar and file sharing; workgroup and contact lists; and templates for agendas, minutes, key questions, and key action items for follow up.

Charlie shared a question that was raised by the Data Coordination/System Building workgroup regarding legal advice. There are national issues around data systems and data sharing and the whole group is conscious of the sensitivity of these issues. The question raised was whether a legal advisor should be brought in periodically as a guest or appointed as a standing workgroup member. The Data Coordination workgroup prefers that someone be added as a standing committee member. Kevin was in agreement.

4. Early Learning Advisory Committee Oversight – Kevin Bain

Kevin Bain informed ELAC of the type of oversight that will be utilized with the workgroup structure. Workgroups give ELAC latitude to move forward, and they must be aligned around ELAC's statutory requirements. Part of ELAC's role will be to frame and align and make sure overarching goals and responsibilities are those that the workgroups are focusing their efforts on.

Each workgroup will report in when ELAC meets. This will not be too arduous as someone from ELAC is on each workgroup. Groups will use a template to document key questions and issues covered and will report out to ELAC on issues; questions that need resolution; and current top priorities. Updates will be five minutes per workgroup, but sometimes throughout the year an extended presentation will be needed, or recommendations will need to be made for ELAC to vote on.

A question was raised about voting. Kevin noted that a template will be made for roles and responsibilities to formalize the processes and infrastructure.

Three of the workgroups have met since the kickoff meeting on April 26. Three of the co-chairs updated ELAC on the meetings.

Charlie Geier updated ELAC on the Data Coordination meeting. He reported 100 percent attendance. The group took time to look at who they are as individuals, what assets they bring, what work is currently being done, and what questions there are. They created a document that relays all of the assets within the group. Charlie reported that the group has an incredible amount of talent and expertise. The group also discussed general ELAC updates, the process framework from the How Coalitions Work training, and the workgroup's objectives and responsibilities. The workgroup will be creating a document called Fundamentals of Data Coordination and System Building that will include ten best practices for early learning and which system has which elements. Workgroup members will research from their own perspective to identify what exists and where linkages exist. Charlie noted there was lots of energy from the group overall and expressed his thanks. The co-chair of the group is Karen Fredrickson Comer from the IUPUI Polis Center, and she brings the data perspective, knowledge and expertise. Charlie is the meeting facilitator. He noted the need to come back to primary responsibilities, keeping the end goal in mind.

Kevin Bain updated ELAC on the Evaluation of Child and Parent Outcomes workgroup meeting. After introductions, the group talked about their historic opportunity given the timing of this year's pre-k pilot to prioritize certain deliverables. The workgroup has a tight timeframe in light of statutory responsibilities. The group discussed ways they can shape the tools and resources that are used in the pilot, including the kindergarten readiness assessment. Kevin guided the group using the How Coalitions Work training and the group was able to agree on a process and lay out a series of agreements for the next four months. By August they will have a recommendation for validated, standardized tools that will be used to evaluate child outcomes in the pre-k pilot. The group went through a list from the University of Kentucky and ended up with about 16 different tools they will consider to make their recommendations. The group will think about it over the next 24-48 hours and develop a rubric to look at the tools and assess them. Four or five group members will review each tool and will look at each domain including associated cost. Kevin noted that the group discussed Kentucky's philosophy of giving programs options for which tool to use but explained that the workgroup and ELAC must recommend a single option. He reported that the workgroup was very actively engaged.

Dianna Wallace updated ELAC on the Workforce and Professional Development workgroup meeting. Dianna is co-chairing the group with ELAC Special Advisor John Burnett. 50 percent of the group was unable to attend the How Coalitions Work training. John and Dianna put together an agenda and hosted a conference call to make introductions. Dianna expressed thanks to all who ensured the workgroups were diverse. The agenda included the objectives, vision, and history of ELAC, and Dianna and John answered the group's questions regarding their workgroup's connection back to ELAC. The group's next meeting will be face to face and the co-chairs are looking to finalize the date by June 19th. During the conference call the group identified a couple of sectors missing from the table. Charlie Geier noted that the Data Coordination group relies heavily on the other 6 workgroups and recommended a standard or expectation for co-chair communication. Kevin noted that he is still refining what that will look like but is working on a "guiding team"—a subset of ELAC/workgroup members. Ongoing communication will still be required, but a regular meeting time will be set up for the subgroup to meet and keep everyone in the loop.

5. 2014 Legislation Update: HEA 1004

HEA 1004 is a 5-county pre-k pilot and many details are still in the process of being determined. In comparison to the Early Education Matching Grant, there is a multidisciplinary group looking at a host of data sources to make a recommendation for which counties should be included.. The legislation provided a broad outline, for example the

longitudinal study must be from pre-k to third grade and must include a control group, but the parameters of the control group and what the rest of the study looks like will need to be hammered out once the five pilot counties are determined.

HEA 1004 also established the prekindergarten and early learning study commission. The members will be named soon and will come together for a defined period of time. The commission's legislative report is due November 1, 2014. The commission must include a member from ELAC and has ten specific responsibilities that the ELAC workgroups will be able to speak to.

Any questions from the field can be sent to James Betley with the Center for Education and Career Innovation or ELAC member Melanie Brizzi.

6. June 30 Report – Kevin Bain

Several ELAC members spent time outlining what the report would look like based on the committee's 2013 statutory requirements, which include a needs assessment to baseline where Indiana is in terms of availability and quality of early childhood education for low income families and children; opportunities and barriers to collaboration (this will be looked at by the Funding Streams workgroup); capacity and effectiveness of 2 and 4 year public and private higher education institutions; and recommended details about "the program," or, the Early Education Matching Grant, which has already been accomplished. ELAC is working with the Indiana Youth Institute and their Kids Count data for the needs assessment. Amanda Lopez will be coordinating the development of the report and a draft will be brought to the next ELAC meeting on June 11 to be finalized and voted on. Kevin expressed many thanks to Amanda, Dianna Wallace, and the Indiana Youth Institute.

There was a question from the audience regarding whether the report would be made available to the public. The report will likely be made public after being submitted to the governor and legislature.

7. Other Business

Charlie Geier reported that the Indiana Department of Education received a small grant to host Early Learning Summits around the state and to address IDOE's priorities. The first event, the Economics of Early Education, was held on February 19th in Indianapolis and included speaker Dr. Robert H. Dugger, chairman of the ReadyNation Advisory Board. More than 100 people attended. The second summit will be hosted in Fort Wayne on May 15th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 200 seats are available. Another summit will be held in August in Bloomington.

Charlie announced that the US Department of Education will release a preschool development grant to support state infrastructure development. The grant is designed for states with limited or no state pre-k funding who did not receive the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.