

Early Learning Advisory Committee
Minutes
February 12, 2016
Government Center – Conference Room 4

Present:

Charlie Geier
Robin Atkins
Christopher Stokes
M. Cindy Frey

Absent:

Kevin Bain
Melanie Brizzi
Connie Sherman

Guests:

Beth Barrett

I. Call to Order

Charlie called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm and welcomed everyone in chairman's absence. He thanked everyone who attended and participated in the January kick-off meeting held January 14, 2016 with over 100 ELAC members and workgroup members.

II. Review of Minutes

December 11, 2015 minutes were sent to committee members and approved prior to the January meeting. There were no minutes to review and approved from January meeting.

III. Workgroup Updates

Each month the seven workgroups report out on their focus/accomplishments for the past month and summarize the workgroup's priorities for the next month or quarter. They also identify and inform ELAC of any upcoming recommendations for future ELAC meetings to assist in planning the agenda.

1. ***Child Development and Well Being*** – John Pierce reported for this workgroup. John reported this group has not met since the January kick-off meeting but will meet in 2 weeks. The group has made developmental screenings a top priority for this year in coordination with other statewide work in this area. The group continues to gather information and explore the Help Me Grow initiative for Indiana. There currently are 9 “hubs” throughout the state sponsored by Indiana School of Medicine. Project LAUNCH is also in several counties and the idea of Help Me Grow is to build a system on the activities already going on. Indiana doesn't normally assess children prior to school age and many developmental delays and health issues surface in the years 0-5. It is also important to know the resources available and know who to refer children to for these services. Some of the members who have been meeting on the Help Me Grow initiative will be joining this workgroup as members. The group is also investigating a competitive grant opportunity previously administered by the Indiana State Department of Health in the past. The group is exploring if this grant could help Indiana with the implementation costs of Help Me Grow.

Questions:

1. Will the group be recommending a particular screening instrument?

Not at this time- there is more fact finding needed and Help Me Grow is costly and will look at a statewide plan with a possible pilot. This information is being documented.

2. Are there particular counties in Indiana that have begun this work?
Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions to Unmet Needs in Children's Health) has been in place for maybe a year in 9 counties but many are just getting started and there is a lot of work to be done.

2. **Data Coordination** –Charlie reported happily he now has a co-chair, Jeff Hudnell, Executive Director of the Indiana Network of Knowledge (INK). The group is excited to get to work this year as they have laid out the vision and now it is time to get the work implemented. The next meeting will be a presentation by INK and completion of the group's logic model. This group will work closely with all the other groups along with continued work on the dashboard and other aspects of the ELAC reporting. The group meets the 4th Thursday of every month.

3. **Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes** –Megan Purcell, co-chair, reported this group is re-grouping. They have welcomed many new members and welcomed back a couple of members who had been absent for awhile. Next steps will be the logic model and work plan for 2016. Looking at the evaluation of child and family outcomes, the group is looking at what can be used that's already available to demonstrate the impact of pre-k. This group will need to collaborate with several different workgroups (Data/Child Development and Wellbeing/Family Engagement). It was commented that utilizing INK, we can bypass the necessary MOU's (memo of understanding) in order to gather all this information. Joint meetings could be found very helpful to identify common outcomes – some of this data has probably already been pulled.

4. **Family Engagement** – John Pierce, co-chair, returned to report out for this group. This workgroup has a recommendation they would like to propose today working closely with the Indiana Department of Health and Indiana Maternal Infant-Child Home Visiting group. The group would like ELAC to adopt the following definition for Home Visiting Programs for the ELAC glossary:
"Home visiting describes evidence-based programs that partner with pregnant women and families with children age birth to five to provide voluntary, individualized services. Home visits can be part of many types of programs; however, this ELAC definition is limited to evidence-based programs the focus primarily on home visiting. More specifically, this definition focuses on home visiting programs that have research supporting their efficacy in achieving at least one of the following: optimizing health outcomes for mother and child; supporting families in raising physically, socially and emotionally healthy children; preventing child abuse; and helping families to build resiliency so they can cope with adverse experiences. Examples of such programs include Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families, Early Head Start and Parents as Teachers. Home visiting services take place in a setting that is natural and comfortable for the family, such as the home, child care program or library. Areas of support within home visiting

may include: positive parenting, child development, maternal and child health, access to resources and social supports and family economic self-sufficiency.” This definition was a collaboration of many state agencies and the work of a diverse workgroup.

Motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Robin to adopt this definition of home visiting. The group unanimously approved this definition to be added to the ELAC glossary without any changes.

The family engagement toolkit has been evaluated by a small group of providers and some suggestions made for improvements this group feels they can work on. They would like to continue evaluating and look for ways to market to increase use. They would like to track programs and looking for ways to do this. (maybe use in an excel program to compare data) The group is also tasked with working on a family friendly version of the Early Learning Foundations.

- 5. *Funding Streams*** – Amanda Lopez, committee member, presented this workgroups report in the absence of the co-chairs. Amanda reported the group met yesterday and has 2 main objectives for 2016. In 2015, they completed the Summary of Early Learning Funding in Indiana. The group has distributed the report to key stakeholders and a copy is available on the ELAC website. (www.elacindiana.org) The group plans to update the report in 2016 with an emphasis on preschool funding and rotate each year with different age emphasis. The group did receive feedback and requests from one of the legislative staff who received the report showing the data gathered and these reports are being used in the state. The next priority is a partnership with CELO and the “Cost of Quality” tool. The tool helps identify costs of scaling state preschool/pre-k using variables related to quality.

Questions:

1. Do you anticipate the tool will be presented to ELAC once this work is completed?
Yes, the group will share their findings with ELAC.
2. Did the group talk about the goal of having legislators actually read the memo?
A variety of sectors did report the memo was very helpful. The workgroup has 2 legislative staffers who were very active and involved in the work. The workgroup will survey the stakeholder list to get additional feedback.
3. Does the workgroup have input on the Indy Chamber work on cost savings?
One of the committee members, Andrew Cullen, is a member and sharing information and data concerning this work.

- 6. *Provider Participation and Advancement*** - Committee member Lacy Kottkamp, reported for absent co-chairs. The workgroup is working on community coalitions and working on a list of coalitions throughout the state with the assistance of the local CCRR’s and local United Way Agencies. This should be finalized by the March meeting. Early Learning Indiana is partnering with By 5 for a Coalition Summit scheduled for early June 2016. This will be a broad focus of children birth to 5 years old with a focus on current coalitions.

They are also looking a determining levels for coalitions using the common language of levels from the Family Engagement toolkit. A smaller subgroup is working on a toolkit for coalitions to assess their level.

Questions:

1. Does the group feel they have been able to identify all the coalitions in the state?

No. Lacy reported she is working closely with the County Resource and Referral Agencies (CCRR) and the work they are currently engaged in within their communities and many of them do not recognize the groups they are working with as coalitions. She has been working with the program directors to assist with this work.

It was also commented that there should be an interactive state map on the ELAC website of existing coalitions with key contact name to connect individuals and encourage engagement.

7. Workforce and Professional Development – Erin Kissling, committee member, is reporting for this workgroup. The group met yesterday to discuss objectives for 2016. The conversations began with discussions around early learning and out of school time and if ELAC is focused on birth through age 8, the group will include out-of-school time children. They have 4 objectives for 2016:

- Recruitment, retention and reward of the early learning and out of school workforce (how to elevate the idea of a workforce)
- Creating a comprehensive professional development system – support the work of INPDN
- Identify the gaps in workforce data
- Continue the ongoing preparation and support for quality professional practices in early childhood and out-of –school time

Next meeting the group will work on their work plan and set their agenda for 2016 and to finish their logic model.

Questions:

1. How is the process you use to come to your conclusions:

We are looking to other states and ELI is doing this work and there is a graduate student at BSU to work on the background of Indiana information – they also refer to the Berkley Study completed last year on Indiana's EC workforce and Early Childhood Higher Education. This report is post on the ELAC website under resources.

2. When you talk about compensation that gets tough. Were there conversations on non-monetary rewards?

That is specifically why the word reward was used to keep the door open to what that means to the field right now.

3. Was there discussion around how you determine what reward is given? Looking at outcomes is going to be key here and looking at what investments we're making and what is going to give us the most bang for the dollar and who's doing the best. Looking at PTQ and outcomes has to play into the picture and the investment in pre-k and the longitudinal study.

IV. ELAC Updates –Amanda Lopez reported the year has started with a well attended kick off meeting. At the kick off meeting the new ELAC website: www.elacindiana.org

was unveiled and committee members were shown the website during this meeting highlighting the different pages and content available. There was a suggestion to add a tab for infrastructure to highlight those systems that have been established and what gaps are there. The committee thought it was very intuitive and easy to navigate.

- V. CCDBG State Plan Update** – Rhonda Clark, Deputy Director of FSSA Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning updated committee members on the professional development portion of the state plan that the office has been working on. The goal of the professional development portion of the state plan is stackable trainings and there is also a requirement for the requirement of health and safety orientation training for all providers. There are 10 mandatory topics that must be covered in these trainings and the quality team is currently working on cross walking current trainings that may meet these new requirements. This training will become the baseline for the early care and education field, looking at how this fits and becomes part of the stackable piece of the training. By next month, the committee will receive an updated copy of the new Core Knowledge and Competencies (CKC's) that will be rolled out. This will be a good tool for professionals to use to develop a professional development plan. Next month the states career pathways should also be completed and available to present to ELAC.

Questions:

1. What was the process to revise the CKC's?
There was a small workgroup formed that looked at what other states had created, many who had Race to the Top funds. The committee also looked at the Institute of Medicine report and really focused on the core knowledge needed and what individuals in the field should know and be able to do. Once the committee completed the work, a national editor also reviewed the document and gave recommendations. Currently the document is in design.
2. Please update the committee on the timeline of the state plan?
Public hearings were held the first week of February and final revisions are being made. The office is on track to complete the plan on time and will be in compliance by the September 30, 2016 deadline.

VI. Early Education Matching Grant Update

Rhonda reported 23 applicants representing 47 sites (several applicants had multiple sites) responded to the recent RFF to serve children in their programs for both the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years. Some demographics of those that applied:

1. 13 applicants were previous EEMG grantees, and 10 were new applicants.
2. The applicants represent 19 counties across the north, south and central regions of the state. Communities who have not previously participated in EEMG applied.
3. \$3,608,015.82 total grant request for two years (or about \$1.8M/year).
4. \$5,126,437.82 total amount secured in matches (or about \$2.5M/year).
5. With the grant and match funds, approximately 1,400 children (700 children / year) could be served. This represents about 70 4-yr-old classrooms.
6. The applicants varied in type: 18 non-profit organizations, 28 public schools, and 1 for-profit organization. The provider type included 28 public schools, 17 child care centers, 1 family home provider-LLC and 1 registered ministry.

7. Their level of high quality was evenly split: 15 sites are Level 4, 16 Sites are Level 3, and 16 plan to be Level 3 or above by July 2016, many through the new public school pathway.

Independent teams of reviewers are completing their scoring of these applications. The OECOSL will be presenting the scores and recommendations to the ELAC members with hopes of awarding grants early April to allow time for the state contract process.

Questions:

1. Is there any coaching available for these programs in grant writing?
In the Request for Funding Application there were suggestions of entities that could assist in grant writing and webinars were held for those interested in applying to assist with the Request for Funding Application. There seems to be great intent but they didn't have the grant writing skills.
2. Is there a feedback process for those grants that are not awarded?
If an applicant requests feedback, the office will share reviewer's comments and areas where improvements are needed. Coaching should be provided to assist programs in working towards these improvements.

VII. OMW Pre-K Updates-

Rhonda also shared this report. Family applications for the 2016-17 pre-k year will be accepted from January 13 – March 25, 2016 in the five pilot counties, Allen/Jackson/Lake/Marion and Vanderburgh. Family may apply at www.onmywayprek.org and submit online, receiving an immediate confirmation that their application has been received or they may print off an application and submit to their local intake agent listed on the application. Again next year, OECSOL is partnering with the City of Indianapolis and United Way of Central Indiana for families located in Marion County. The Marion County application is the same for both programs; however the Indy Preschool Program (IndyPSP) can support both 3 and 4 year-olds, and the state On My Way Pre-k can only support 4 year-olds. To date, 4,240 family applications have been received statewide and entered into the database. If demand exceeds funding available, a randomized, computerized lottery will be held early in April. Those families chosen will then meet with local intakes to verify eligibility and then complete the grant process.

There are currently 229 approved On My Way Pre-K programs throughout the 5 pilot counties. New programs are being added as applications are received and verified as eligible, giving families many different options to choose for their children in our mixed delivery system. There is no deadline for provider applications; however, families will be choosing providers as they complete the grant process beginning in April.

Questions:

1. Are the 5 pilot counties able to raise the mandatory 10% county match for these new grants?
The office has been working with each of the county teams to determine the number of children they will be able to serve based on the amount of match dollars they are able to secure along with the state match within the 10M budget.
2. What does it look like in Jackson County?
They are about ½ way to their goal.
3. Has there been a study from the first round how many rural vs. urban applications are being received?
The weekly updates sent to the counties of lottery applications received and entered in the database are divided by zip code so they can target their recruitment activities and assure there are providers available for all families.

VIII. Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Update

Charlie reported this act came into law December 10, 2015. Right now the regulatory process is going on and public comment is open. 350 written comments were received and 2 listening sessions. There was a session at the national Title One Conference that Charlie attended in Houston, Texas. All the comments must be commented on and published so it is a rather lengthy process. It will probably be Octoberish before we know how the law will be enacted which could get interesting as the current Obama administration will be leaving a few months after the law is enacted. The current acting Secretary of Education, John King, who replaced Arnie Duncan, has been asked to become the full Secretary instead of acting so it looks like this administration is going to try to get some of this work into law and regulations. Right after the ESEA came into law, a budget bill was passed; however, the budget bill was based on NCLB (No Child Left Behind). This creates more questions and there will be a period of transition with some new laws, some old and a lot of unknowns. What is exciting is Early Learning is at the forefront of ESEA and there will be new grant opportunities to states similar to the grant Indiana wrote before but this grant has more latitude to the state and state ownership, hopefully making it more attractive for Indiana. Early Learning is embedding in all the title programs allowing funding to be used in various means including professional development and class size reduction.

IX. Next Meeting Date – Friday March 11, 1-3pm Government Center Conference Center – Conference Room #1

X. Adjournment – A motion was made by Robin to adjourn. Christopher seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:14pm.