

## **Attendees**

Liane Grayson, Allison Howland, Susan Bryant, Dr. Karen Carradine, Monica DiOrio, Amanda Lopez  
*On the phone:* Lacey Kottkamp, Matt Hetzel, Megan Purcell, Michaelyn Meave, Kerri Wortinger, Beth Barrett

## **Key Topics Discussed**

### **New Members**

1. Dr. Karen Carradine, Vice President, Head Start, Geminus
2. Susan Bryant, Principal, Liberty Elementary, MSD Decatur Township

### **ELAC Updates**

1. The [\*2017 Indiana Summit for Economic Development via Early Learning Coalitions\*](#) will be held on June 5, 2017 at the Monroe County Convention Center in Bloomington, Indiana. The confirmed keynote speakers are Dr. Tim Bartik, Senior Economist at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, and Erin Ramsey, Senior Manager, Mind in the Making at The Bezos Family Foundation.

### **Indiana Network of Knowledge (INK) and Head Start Data Sharing**

1. A data advisory group was created with representatives from the Head Start community, which had their first phone meeting;
2. Matt has presented about the data sharing work underway at a director's meeting and has a call scheduled with Region 5 on data sharing options locally through their current data systems;
3. Project Support Team is continuing to complete phone calls and in-person meetings to discuss data requests;
4. Discussions have occurred around the cost to integrate data systems. A letter of interest was written to the [Joyce Foundation](#) on the data sharing work. Will have a phone call in May if they want to pursue this cause;
  - a. The highest quote INK has heard is \$100,000 from Child Plus, for one annual data dump from one vendor. They have not heard quotes from other data systems (there are six vendors in Indiana);
  - b. Clarification was given that Child Plus is a data management system, and Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) is an assessment / child outcomes data source. There needs to be a two-phase approach, gathering demographic information and then child outcomes data. The latter is harder to collect because of how it's reported (varied methods);
  - c. Kevin asked if it's possible to work with TSG to get an aggregate report (like Ohio's) while also working on the more complex / expensive data management system, so the workgroup can start to cross-check child outcomes data across the nation?



- i. The Head Start Association did get approval to give out aggregate data in the Annual Report like what Ohio released.
- d. Kerri attended the Head Start National Conference and shared what she learned:
  - i. She attended a policy session related to how reports are using third grade data to reflect on the success of Head Start, which has quite a few reflective flaws (classroom size);
  - ii. The website [www.ECS.org](http://www.ECS.org) gives regular policy updates for each state;
  - iii. New performance standards focused less on HOW but more on WHAT the outcomes are. Head Start programs are given more flexibility in getting to the outcomes, but need solid rationale;
  - iv. They've added a coach with a 4-year bachelor's degree to Head Start programming, and the goals are being looked at more closely to ensure alignment with the performance standards;
  - v. The block grant idea is not well supported in the Head Start community. Head Start could be used as a professional development opportunity for the early childhood education workforce.
  - vi. They will announce in February 2018 if these program standards will remain.

### Capacity Building Grants

- 1. One component of the proposed Pre-K Expansion Bill gives FSSA the ability to use a portion of the money for capacity grants, which they would have to monitor the outcomes;
- 2. FSSA asked if this workgroup would assist in setting up the outcomes criteria that could aggregate into a report. Members agreed that this opportunity fell under the prevue of this workgroup and look forward to seeing how this task develops.

### KRA Assessment Tool

- 1. Members reflected on the articles and discussions on this topic and worked through the following questions:
  - a. Do we need a measure of Kindergarten Readiness?
    - i. Yes. Needs to be part of a comprehensive system.
  - b. What is the purpose of a KRA?
    - i. Assessment is a strengths and weaknesses of the child, not the program. Use outcomes from KRA to help the broader education system for each child's learning / transition planning.
    - ii. Other states have used KRAs for high-stakes testing. Determines if the providers will be participating in state-funded programs. Cut scores. How does that impact high-risk youth? The workgroup eliminated this option!



- iii. Use aggregate data to report how many students are ready for kindergarten on a state level. Not focused on an individual child or program. Would not need as comprehensive of an assessment.

### ISTAR-KR Revamp Update

1. Priorities for the update include creating an assessment that is comprehensive and looks at the individual child; aligned with Head Start standards; aligned to new Foundations;
2. Also talking about identifying a readiness standard based on the students that were assessed with this tool, which would be administered during preschool;
3. Phase two = outputs. Inform parents and teachers of where their children are at and how to help them develop;
4. Timeline is still uncertain, however the money for the redevelopment is for two years. They'd like to build an online training to support with the roll-out and sustained use of the new tool;
5. Purdue completed a direct bill with Early Learning Indiana (OECOSL and IDOE have contributed), and Michael Conn Powers with Indiana University is slated to join the "guiding team". There is not money for a reliability and validity study, however;
6. Will there be an announcement that a redeveloped ISTAR-KR is underway so communities know? This summer, focus groups will be held to gather feedback on the current ISTAR-KR.

### Reflection

1. Do we wait for the ISTAR-KR redevelopment and hope that by 2020-2022 we will have a tool that measures kindergarten readiness? Or, do we move forward with outlining an assessment tool to get an aggregate number on KRA for the state, based on available tools?
  - a. There were concerns about reconciling the use of an interim tool and then transitioning to the updated ISTAR-KR;
  - b. Can we develop a "mini" assessment that would parallel the impending ISTAR-KR update? Some communities have already created something like this, however they are not necessarily measuring the same outcomes.

### Action Items

---

1. **Liane** offered to share information related to capacity building evaluation.
2. **Project Support Team** will contact IDOE for a representation on this workgroup.

### Next Meeting

---

Thursday, May 11, 2017 | Warren Early Childhood Center | 11:00am-1:00pm