



Attendees

Carrie Bale, Connie Sherman, Marta Fetterman, Gail Strong, Cori Newland, Bethany Ecklor Shannon Garrity, Nancy Ward, Kristy Wright, Christina Commons, Erin Kissling, Shirley Payne, John Pierce, Tonia Carriger, Brandy James, Julia Tipton, Amanda Lopez, Whitley Wynns, Monica DiOrio,

Key Topics Discussed

A. New Members

- Brandy James, Early Learning Indiana;
- Cori Newland, Child Care Answers;
- Tonia Carriger, OECOSL.

B. ELAC Updates

- The ELAC Annual Report and County Profiles are being developed with support from the Data Coordination and Systems Integration workgroup. A presentation on the Annual Report and county profiles is planned for the September ELAC meeting;
- Technology update: The ELAC Project Support Team has been piloting a new communication system called “Glip” to replace Wiggio, since new state employees do not have access to Wiggio. Guiding Team will be trained on Glip in September. The Project Support Team will share more information and training materials with all workgroups throughout September.

C. Help Me Grow

- Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is blending two funding streams (Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems and MIECHV) to bring Help Me Grow to 10 pilot sites in Indiana (9 MIECHV and the East Side of Indianapolis Promise Zone);
- Shannon Garrity shared that ISDH held their first technical assistance call with Help Me Grow National. Full implementation of Help Me Grow will take about 12 to 18 months;
- John Pierce shared the importance of the need to urge U.S. representatives to reauthorize Maternal, Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV). The funding currently supports the Indiana home-visiting programs: Health Families Indiana and



Nurse-Family Partnerships. Without MIECHV funding, these initiatives could be stalled.

D. Additional Agenda Items Discussed

- Connie participated in the ELAC Workforce and Professional Development workgroup focusing on professional socio-emotional development.

E. Subcommittee Breakouts

- The workgroup leads reported out on the work they have completed over the past four months.

1. CCDF Intake Subcommittee

- Marta shared that the subcommittee is helping OECOSL meet one of the new CCDBG reauthorization rules around the information that is shared with clients during the CCDF Intake process regarding physical health, child development and family engagement;
- Marta shared that the group has taken a look at the current CCDF intake questions and the length of the process, which is about 30-40 minutes. The subcommittee **drafted** 9 questions to incorporate into the Intake process regarding physical health, child development and family engagement. Depending on the answer, there are resources to share around the topics of nutrition, physical health, family engagement, and child development;
- The full workgroup reviewed the questions and proposed resources, offering feedback and suggestions;
- The workgroup made note that that families are overloaded with packets of information they receive leaving CCDF intake, so the subcommittee discussed alternatives to not overwhelm the family. One idea discussed was sharing information with the families via text over a 30-day period. Follow-up with OECOSL is needed to determine if that is viable;
- The subcommittee is going to share the drafted questions with FSSA for feedback;
- The subcommittee will also explore getting more parent feedback from group, such as Head Start Parent Leaders.

2. Subcommittee on Community Brain Framework/Toolkit/Training



- Carrie shared that the subcommittee is focused on developing a toolkit for appropriate messaging around early brain development for local communities and families;
- An environmental scan has been conducted to begin to determine what types of messages around early brain development grasp the most attention. The subcommittee has identified three top messages that they were most drawn to:
 - Early brain development is foundational for development later in life;
 - From an economic lens, it is more cost effective to address delays in brain development early on, as opposed to later in life;
 - There is a window of opportunity for early brain development in the first five years.
- The group is now in the process of identifying the top resources to share and creating a slide-deck templates on early brain development that can be the turn-key deliverable for communities and programs to utilize;
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- Members discussed adding the slide deck and other related resources to the Why Early Childhood Matters page of the ELAC website. This could be a recommendation to ELAC, including a communication plan that directs the right audience here;
- Connie suggested that the early brain development tools have a separate tab for families and leaders to access resources and slide decks. There was discussion about the new Brighter Futures website in development that is family facing to coordinate any possible changes.

3. Subcommittee on Suspension and Expulsion Policy

- Connie shared that they prepared a draft policy on suspension and expulsion. It has been shared with OECOSL for review;



- Kristy reviewed the process for developing the policy, including completing a review of other suspension and expulsion policies (i.e. Head Start);
- The subcommittee also prepared a “technical assistance document” that would help programs implement the policy. John suggested adding a section or specific wording within the policy document regulating family engagement; the family engagement section in the technical assistance document provide “best practices”, however the concern is that it needs to be more clearly listed as a step in the policy;
- A question was raised about the use of this policy beyond CCDF programs. It is only applicable to programs who accept CCDF;
- Another question was raised on whether this policy will supersede regulations from the school system, since schools are required to have a suspension and expulsion policy. Would schools that also provide CCDF early learning programs follow their school suspension policy or this CCDF suspension policy? Kristy offered to follow-up on this question with her IDOE colleagues.

F. Additional Resources: WFYI Parent Text Presentation (Gail Strong)

- Gail shared a free parent texting resource available for families called “Bright by Text”. It was developed by VROOM as a resource where families can text the word “WFYI” to 274-448 and receive texts of information about research-based tips and local resources based on their child’s age;
- The tool was developed to engage families that are hard to reach. The resource is currently being disseminated to whoever wants to use the tool;
- Bright by Text is eventually looking to expand to age 8;
- This resource is similar to Early Learning Indiana’s free parent texting service: “Bloom Bright”.

Action Items

1. **John** offered to share information related to MIECHV reauthorization.
2. **Kristy** offered to ask Erin and Nathan if the suspension and expulsion policy would supersede what a school system has in place.



3. **Tonia** offered to check with state to see what the next steps are for the suspension and expulsion policy.
4. **All members** are invited to review the working documents from each subcommittee and offer edits.

Next Meeting

Members will meet with their Subcommittee in September and October. Look for communication from your group lead about September and October meeting/conference call options. The full workgroup will reconvene **Thursday, December 7th, 2017*** | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | St. Mary's Child Center.

**Due to Thanksgiving and Christmas, the workgroup will have a combined November and December meeting on December 7th.*