



Committee Members Present:

M. Cindy Frey
Connie Sherman
Christopher Stokes
Nathan Williamson

I. Call to Order

Connie Sherman, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10pm.

II. July Meeting Minutes

All moved to approve the July ELAC meeting minutes.

III. Workgroup Report Outs

1. **Workforce and Professional Development:** Dianna Wallace, co-chair, presented.
 - a. The full workgroup met to hear updates from the three subcommittees and outline the meeting schedule for the next few months. It was decided
 - b. Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition subcommittee plans to complete a series of case studies focused on workforce recruitment, retention, and recognition in Indiana, using two guiding research questions for the interviewing process:
 - i. Why did members of the workforce enter the early learning field?
 - ii. Why do members of the workforce remain in the early learning field?
 - c. Professional Development (PD) Systems subcommittee met in July to take inventory of existing PD organizations and identify key contacts at each;
 - i. To determine the full scope of social/emotional-related PD opportunities currently being offered across the state, the subcommittee developed a survey which has been sent to identified organizations;
 - a. The survey includes information on the extent to which Core Knowledge and Competencies and the Foundations are being covered. Results will be analyzed later in the month.
 - d. Connie Sherman, co-chair of the ELAC Child Development and Well-Being Workgroup was in attendance to learn more about the focus and direction of this subcommittee, and align efforts. Connie is leading the subcommittee writing a new state policy on suspension and expulsion, grounded in brain science research.



- e. Workforce Data subcommittee met with members of the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL) last week to discuss the goals and priorities of the new voluntary Professional Development Registry and other workforce data collection possibilities within OECOSL systems;
 - i. The subcommittee presented a draft list of research questions about the early childhood education workforce to determine if any of the data would or could be collected by the PD Registry;
 - ii. Based on feedback, next steps will be to re-prioritize the list of research questions with a focus on *why* the information is wanted and how will it be used.

Question: Nathan asked if the professional development subcommittee will target “how” social-emotional professional development would take place? Dianna shared the focus now is an environmental scan at a systems-level, working to identify what is being offered, where it is available, and the audience. From there, the subcommittee will analyze any gaps in content, geography, etc. and take next steps.

Question: Adding onto his first question, Nathan asked if there be strategies/efforts to align training based on student-level social-emotional data, like what is gathered from ISTAR-KR? Dianna thanked Nathan for the question and said the subcommittee will look at such data to guide any recommendations for training when they get to that step. Amanda Lopez shared one question in the survey does ask if the training/education coursework is aligned to the Foundations.

2. Funding Streams: Ted Maple, co-chair, presented.

- a. The workgroup is focusing on three projects:
 - i. The workgroup is looking to integrate county-level funding data into the ELAC Annual Report and possibly the county profiles;
 - ii. They will play an advisory role for the 18-month Early Learning Indiana pilot project on blending and braiding funding streams, which has selected Allen and Vanderburgh counties, where about 10 programs will get support on how to blend and braid funding;
 - iii. A small subcommittee will be exploring alternative funding sources for early learning.
- b. Ted also shared he is stepping down as co-chair and will be replaced by Kent Mitchell with Early Learning Indiana effective in September.

Suggestion: Nathan suggested the workgroup advise Early Learning Indiana to consider selecting some programs in rural communities for the blending and braiding pilot, particularly those programs that have limited or no access to funding. It might be



helpful to have such support explored in rural communities, particularly with the addition of rural counties to the On My Way Pre-K pilot program. Amanda Lopez shared the plan is to select a variety of programs, including childcare homes, ministries, school system, licensed center, Head Start, for-profit, non-profit, etc.

3. **Family Engagement:** John Peirce, co-chair, presented.
 - a. Per the conditional approval of ELAC in July on the minor revisions to the [Family Engagement Toolkit](#), the workgroup drafted a communications plan for the outreach and dissemination of the revised Toolkit. They plan to continue refining the plan next month and will look to submit it to FSSA for feedback before sharing with the Committee for review after;
 - b. The workgroup continues to author blogs for the Brighter Futures website, aimed at expanding the use and knowledge of the Family Engagement Toolkit by framing each indicator for family use. The workgroup has successfully submitted three blogs;
 - c. The home visiting subgroup has not met as they are waiting on the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Needs Assessment to be released. In addition, the workgroup is monitoring the upcoming decision from the Indiana General Assembly on the MIECHV Reauthorization and will revisit home visiting-related priorities after September.

Question: Lacey asked if the home visiting subgroup has home visiting representatives from Healthy Families Indiana. John confirmed that yes, Healthy Families Indiana is represented on the subgroup, as are other home visiting programs across the state.

4. **Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes:** Megan Purcell, co-chair, presented.
 - a. The workgroup continues their focus on outlining desired family outcome indicators, and spent the last meeting categorizing a drafted wish list. They plan to collaborate with the Data Coordination and System Integration workgroup on how to move forward with collecting desired data. Charlie shared Indiana Youth Institute is working to gather data requests for the Kids Count report, and can possibly incorporate some of these indicators in their review.
 - a. Megan shared the three topics they are *considering* honing in on are:
 - i. ACES
 - ii. Housing Stability
 - iii. Parental education level



Question: John Peirce asked if there are plans for this workgroup to collaborate with the Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes workgroup on assessing ACES data. Both Megan and Connie agreed to setup this collaboration.

7. Provider Participation and Advancement: Mike Bachman, co-chair, presented.

- a. One subcommittee is working to create a map of early care and education deserts across Indiana, but is first developing a definition for high-quality early care and education desert. From there, they will do a scan in “desert” counties for what early learning programs are being offered;
- b. The second subcommittee will play an advisory role in developing content around Paths to QUALITY to support public schools;
- c. The third subcommittee is working to develop a Community Coalition-Building Toolkit to support the development and expansion of community-based early learning coalitions;
 - i. Mike extended his report out by presenting and outline of the Community Coalition-Building Toolkit:
 - a. Framework describing the philosophical basis for early learning coalition building;
 - b. An Early Learning Coalition Building Self-Assessment that provides a roadmap for ongoing program improvement by identifying the coalition’s Stage of Growth assessed by 22 indicators in Four Key Elements:
 - i. Four Stages of Growth - Entering, (re-)Emerging, Progressing, and Excelling.
 - ii. Four Key Elements - Engage Stakeholders, Understand the State of Community, Create Collective Vision, and Implement Continuous Improvement;
 - c. A set of Coalition Building Resources supporting coalition building work will also be incorporated.
 - ii. At this time, a communication plan is not in place but will be developed. The plan is to have the final toolkit be in a PDF format and accessed by the ELAC website. As well, the subcommittee will research how best to market the toolkit, such as highlighting it at the 2018 Coalition Summit;
- d. The Committee did not have any questions. Lacey motioned to accept the Community Coalition-Building Toolkit, Nathan seconded, and the motion was approved.

IV. On My Way Pre-K Pilot Program: Rhonda Clark, FSSA, presented.



- a. Meetings around the state with all 15 new counties have been completed. Many programs are planning to start in January, however that is not finalized.
- b. Enrollment is at 95%.

V. Federal Legislative Updates

1. The Every Student Succeeds Act Implementation Plan draft from the Indiana State Department of Education will be submitted to the Governor for review next week. The deadline for submitting the final plan to the US Department of Education is September 18, 2017. IDOE will share the implementation plan publicly after the Governor signs off.

Nathan proposed a motion to adjourn. Chris seconded; all approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47pm.

Next ELAC Meeting:

September 8, 2017 | 1:00 – 3:00pm | Indiana Government Center South