



## Attendees

---

Marissa Manlove, Megan Broadus, Morgan Farnworth, Rhonda Clark, Lisa Kimper, Andy Goebel, Lora Stephens, Terri Green, Amanda Lopez, Whitley Wynns

## Key Topics Discussed

---

### A. ELAC Updates/Website News

- Amanda shared that the Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) approved the annual report and county profiles. The Indiana Family Social Services Administration (FSSA) has submitted the report to the Governor's Office.
- ELAC is waiting for a new appointed Chair before planning for 2018. The annual ELAC January planning meeting will be postponed until an appointed Chair is selected.
- ELAC will not meet during the month of November, but will meet in December to complete outstanding business and listen to workgroup presentations.

### B. Federal and State Legislative Updates

- Rhonda shared that a bipartisan policy brief is available called "[A Bipartisan Case for Early Childhood Development](#)." Authors of the report will push this agenda on Capitol Hill.
- Members reviewed the recommendations section within the report and noted that there are funding recommendations the workgroup can look at and discuss how to incorporate those recommendations for Indiana.
- Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) conducted a needs assessment for 2017. This workgroup will be updated when that report is public. The needs assessment can be used by the Funding Streams workgroup to determine funding opportunities based on the needs of Hoosier families.
- Rhonda shared that Indiana will be participating in a Federal Technical Assistance (TA) pilot opportunity. The Federal TA Center will focus on business supports for early learning programs through a train-the-trainer program. Indiana will pilot module 1 and 2 of the training. Two trainings will be conducted between January and March utilizing the "[Aim for Excellence](#)" credential for Directors.
  - A mentoring program through McCormick called "Taking Charge of Change" has increased the overall leadership within the field. Workgroup members would like to address ways to replicate this mentoring initiative.



### **C. Alternative Funding Subcommittee**

- Amanda reviewed the three possible financial goals that could be set to help direct the alternative funding subcommittee. Members took the time to discuss the three focus areas and determine the following:
  - Increasing teacher wages
    - Members noted that there are two or three other initiatives within the state that are focusing on teacher wages. It was determined that this may not be the best area for the group to focus on since there are others in Indiana currently focused on this issue.
  - Expanding income eligibility for CCDF beyond 127% below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
    - Members discussed the possibility of looking to change the income eligibility from 127% FPL to 185% FPL with the interest of serving more children and families.
    - Concerned that with the current long wait time on the waiting list for CCDF with families that meet 127% FPL, and knowing that there is a strong need for 4 year olds to be served, members determine that expanding the income eligibility at this time would not be in the best interest of families nor a good focus for the workgroup and subcommittee.
  - Infant/Toddler Programs and Early Brain Development
    - Members discussed the data and information that was noted in the ELAC report. Infant/Toddler programs are the most expensive, and there are not many infant/toddler program options for families.
    - Members discussed focusing on funding support for this particular group by looking at funding opportunities and by researching viable business models for program expansion and sustainability.
    - [“A Bipartisan Case for Early Childhood Development”](#) policy brief touched on some recommendations around infant/toddler programs and funding. The workgroup and subcommittee could review this information and brainstorm how to tailor this recommendation to Indiana specifically.
  - The workgroup discussed possibly developing a toolkit for funding strategies. The toolkit could highlight the impact high quality



infant/toddler programs have on a community. There is also an opportunity to highlight the impact on a community when 4 year olds are enrolled in high quality programs.

#### **D. Blended and Braided Funding**

- Transform Consulting Group is working with about 10 high quality programs to assist them with blended and braided funding efforts. These programs were selected to participate in a pilot through the support of Early Learning Indiana with the goal to gather information that will help guide tools and resources necessary to help administrators and directors in their efforts to maximize funding opportunities for their early learning programs.
- Different program types were selected to participate in this pilot (i.e. schools, family child care homes, ministries, non-profit organizations, small sites, multi-sites, etc.)
- Workgroup members would like to have a presentation by two or more programs upon completion of the pilot to hear their candid feedback, success, and/or concerns.

#### **E. 2018 Planning**

- The workgroup will not meet in December. January's workgroup meeting will be utilized for 2018 planning.
- The workgroup discussed future presentation opportunities around funding options in Indiana. Members identified wanting to hear from the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and possibly setting up a funding panel of funders who could discuss what they look for in programs to get them on-board to offer dollars towards early learning.
- Members also express an interest in looking at data that will inform their decision around funding opportunities that can be utilized in Indiana.

#### **Action Items**

---

#### **Next Meeting**

---

Thursday, January 11, 2017 | Early Learning Indiana | TBD