



Committee Members Present:

Lacey Kottkamp - Interim Chair
M. Cindy Frey
Connie Sherman
Nathan Williamson

I. Call to Order

Lacy Kottkamp, Interim Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

II. October Meeting Minutes

Nathan motioned; Chris seconded; all approved. Minutes were approved and will be posted to the ELAC website.

III. Workgroup Updates

1. **Child Development and Well-being:** John Peirce, member, presented.
 - a. The full workgroup met on December 7th and shared subcommittee updates;
 - b. Early Brain Development Messaging Subcommittee:
 - i. They created a slide deck template for coalitions and other early learning organizations to use when connecting with the community;
 - ii. Some feedback from the full CDWB workgroup is to make the slide deck into a webinar, and complete a communications plan;
 - iii. Next steps will be to have early learning/brain development experts review the content for accuracy and overall effectiveness;
 - c. Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Intake Process Subcommittee:
 - i. The subcommittee finalized questions and resources during the October subcommittee meeting. Members went through a process of cross walking concerns from the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning with the new questions and newly identified resources that were not originally readily available to families during the CCDF Intake process;
 - ii. The questions and resources have been sent to the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, but no final feedback has been received.
 - d. Suspension/Expulsion Policy Subcommittee:
 - i. The Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL) has developed a final policy for suspension and expulsion based on the policy draft developed by the subcommittee;



- ii. On January 19th, subcommittee members will meet with the Office to talk about the policy and ways the subcommittee can support the implementation of the policy;
 - iii. Connie mentioned speaking with Dr. Gilliam who's stressed the need for a mental health climate when looking at suspension and expulsion. He suggested the subcommittee look at work Connecticut has completed as a point of guidance;
 - iv. Amanda shared a tool for building a toolkit. The subcommittee may be interested in developing a toolkit around ways to address suspension and expulsion through a mental health climate. Subcommittee members will review this information in preparation for the meeting with OECOSL.
2. **Evaluation of Child and Family Outcomes:** Monica DiOrio, Project Management Team, presented.
 - a. The workgroup had special presentations from the research teams with the Early Education Matching Grant (Indiana University) and On My Way Pre-K (Purdue University), respectively;
 - b. The workgroup spent some time reviewing the data and will coordinate a summary report with both research teams in 2018.
3. **Family Engagement:** John Peirce, co-chair, presented.
 - a. At the last workgroup meeting, Beth Barrett shared a summary of the Family Engagement Peer Learning Community experience which took place over 6 months in 2017. Indiana was featured as a leader in family engagement practices and shared tips with other states. A draft action plan was shared for Indiana, which will be used as a focal point in the workgroup's 2018 planning;
 - b. Lenore Friedly with Early Learning Indiana shared information on professional development initiatives around the Family Engagement Toolkit;
 - c. The workgroup will meet again in January to outline 2018 priorities, hear from Bethany Ecklor with DMHA about parent cafes, and plan for a February meeting with State Legislators on family engagement practices and plans.
4. **Funding Streams:** Marissa Manlove, co-chair, presented.
 - a. The workgroup is working to identify additional funding sources for the state's early learning initiatives, and identifying goals for funding. One example of a unique funding source is using a soda tax revenue;
 - b. Alternative Funding Strategies Subgroup Update:
 - i. Due to other groups focused on the initiative of raising teacher wages, the workgroup determined that they should focus their energy elsewhere.



- ii. Expanding the income eligibility for CCDF beyond 127% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for children and families would not be in the best interest at this time for families because the CCDF waiting list and the wait time is long and would only grow if the FPL was extended.
- iii. It was suggested that members focus on infant/toddler funding for programs because they are the most expensive and have the least enrollment. Members also discussed focusing on funding support for this particular group by looking at funding opportunities but also research viable business models that providers can incorporate.
 - a. The workgroup is also working as an advisory role for the Early Learning Indiana's Blending and Braiding project, which is present in Allen, Vanderburgh, and Madison counties. Members discussed future presentation opportunities to the workgroup around funding options. Members identified wanting to hear from the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
 - b. Members also discussed possibly hosting 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.

Comment: Christopher offered to help brainstorm unique funding sources and funding areas. He also suggested creating long-term funding in a three-year road map, for example.

Question: Nathan asked if the goal to advocate for additional funding streams? Amanda shared the goal is to find new revenue sources for gaps. For example, a state used unique funding sources to fund full day programs that could only do half-day programming without this extra funding.

- 5. **Provider Participation and Advancement:** Erin Kissling, member, presented.
 - a. Community Coalition Building Toolkit Subcommittee:
 - i. The subcommittee decided to hold off on presenting the final toolkit to ELAC until January 2018 to allow for a final review by all workgroup members.
 - b. PES/PTQ Materials for Schools Subcommittee:
 - i. Shared feedback with the Office.
 - ii. Upcoming recommendations: Toolkit in January, wording updates to the ELAC glossary.
- 6. **Workforce and Professional Development:** Beth Reidman, member, presented.
 - a. Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition Subcommittee:



- i. Subcommittee is working to finalize the process to conduct interviews across the state, which will focus on two main research questions:
 - a. Why did members of the workforce enter the early learning field?
 - b. Why do members of the workforce remain in the early learning field?
- ii. A survey will also be created
- b. Professional Development Subcommittee:
 - i. Sent out a follow-up survey to state training/ higher ed partners to get more feedback.
- c. Workforce Data Subcommittee:
 - i. Plan to work on gather data about the education level of the workforce to fill in the data gaps.

Comment: Nathan asked if she can expand on the interviews that are going to be done? Amanda shared the interviews are being supported by Mike Tinsley with Cummins, and the subcommittee members planning to conduct the interviews. The questions and protocols are not finalized yet, but will be shared with the Committee when ready.

Nathan said it's important for the Committee. Are public schools included in the interviews? Yes.

Nathan shared that IDOE is doing some research on recruitment and retention with teachers, so he wants to avoid duplication and also support the work through their network. He also suggests the subcommittee consider having these interviews be translated into a survey for a broader reach.

Amanda did ask members to pass along any university or other research institutions would be interested in supporting this work. Nathan asked if there are any universities or institutions researching recruitment and retention.

- 7. **Data Coordination and System Integration:** Charlie Geier and Matt Hetzel, co-chairs, presented.
 - a. The workgroup is discussing any additional marketing and outreach efforts, now that the 2018 ELAC Annual report is approved. On that note, the workgroup is looking toward the 2019 ELAC Annual Report;
 - b. 2018 priorities – how to expand the reach and use of interactive dashboards.
 - c. Matt will be rotating off as co-chair at the end of this year. Charlie thanked him for his time and great contributions to the workgroup and ELAC overall;



- d. The co-chairs presented the Data Toolkit developed by this workgroup, asking the Committee to approve the adoption of this tool;
 - i. Process: research scan of other states that have toolkits and broke the toolkit into sections. Subgroups were created around the focus areas to develop content for each section;
 - ii. John Peirce, workgroup member, presented the communications plan for this Data Toolkit, based on the FSSA communications tool template shared with ELAC earlier in 2017;
 - iii. Cindy Frey shared that Bartholomew County will make great use of this.

Question: Are there protocols within the document for coalitions to use the data? Yes. Every section follows a similar format that includes protocols to complete and utilize the resources and procedures.

Comment: Nathan suggests adding the audience to include public schools.

Christopher motions to approve. Cindy seconded. All approved and the Data Toolkit has been adopted.

IV. Help Me Grow

- a. Shannon Garrity with ISDH presented on a new state initiative called the Help Me Grow (HMG) that ELAC helped to bring to Indiana;
- b. HMG is being implemented in partnership with Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS).
- c. Discussed the alignment with ELAC. Two ELAC workgroups will help support and advise the implementation of the model: the Child Development and Well-Being workgroup serving as the leadership team and the Data Coordination and System Integration workgroup advising data gathering and evaluation;
- d. The initiative will be piloted in 7 counties (Lake, LaPorte, St Joseph, Elkhart, Grant, Scott, Marion County (overlap in Marion Co. with ECCS funding)) through 2021, with the hope of doing a statewide rollout;
- e. The National HMG Technical Assistance Team is visiting Indiana in January and will include a special ELAC meeting on January 23rd. All ELAC members are invited to attend (a save-the-date should be released next week).

V. 2018 ELAC Annual Report

1. The report has been approved and posted to the ELAC website. Promotion of the report is on hold until the interactive dashboards and county profiles are added to a new section of the website.



VI. On My Way Pre-K Program Updates

1. Ten of the 15 new counties will begin enrolling in January 2018: Bartholomew, Delaware, Elkhart, Howard, Kosciusko, Madison, Marshall, Monroe, St. Joseph, and Tippecanoe Counties.
2. The state is modifying how families are enrolled to a rolling basis to see if more families enroll;
3. The state is also looking at strategies to figure out why families that sign-up don't show up to their initial meetings. Looking to give incentives for families to attend their intake meeting, starting with an OMW backpack with non-perishable goods.
4. On December 15, a RFF for legislative OMW Capacity grants will be released. It is a statewide grant to support increasing more high quality programs. Individual programs or a community coalition that is working to expand capacity can apply. More details will be released with the RFF. A webinar is scheduled on December 19, 2017 as well.

Question: Is the addition of the service need part of why families are not participating in OMW? Beth shared that the main reason families are not enrolling is because they don't meet the income requirement of 127% FPL, or the families don't show up.

How are families notified they are accepted? Beth shared that a letter is sent and a phone call with the appointment time.

Nathan suggested that perhaps having the families pick an intake appointment time would be a successful strategy, or maybe have the application and enrollment process occur at the same time/event. Beth said they would consider the feedback.

VII. Federal Legislative Updates

1. Federal: ESSA – IDOE is still waiting for feedback from the US Department of Education on the state plan.

Nathan moved to adjourn; Cindy seconded; all approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Next ELAC Meeting: January 12, 2017 | 1:00 – 3:00pm | Indiana Government Center South