



Attendees

Faiza Serang, Sarah Parks-Reece, Lenore Friedly, Olanda Lewis, Sue McKinney (attending for Amy), Julie Burk, Beth Barrett, Diane Poteet, Emily Rupchock, Andrea Gilkinson, Katie Herron, John Peirce, Melissa Wall, Lora Stephens. By phone: Patrick Jackson, Don Jantzi

Key Topics Discussed

A. Updates

a. ELAC

- i. The Early Learning Summit is planned for October 16th. It will be at Ivy Tech. New this year, the summit is only a half-day, and the participant audience is businesses and policymakers.
- ii. The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) State Plan is currently being updated. A listening tour will begin soon. We will post the dates once available.
- iii. There is going to be a new competitive Preschool Development Grant for states that is different than the “legacy” grant to be released this summer. It will focus on systems building and birth to five (not just preschool). Indiana may apply pending Governor’s office approval.
- iv. New requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) legislation has the Indiana Department of Education focusing on transition to Kindergarten and coordination with Head Start and other early childhood education programs.
- v. As part of the new CCDBG State Plan, the FSSA Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning (OECOSL) is launching a new family-friendly website called “Brighter Futures”. Right now it is live but not being promoted yet until this summer. Early Learning Indiana is hosting it. www.brighterfuturesindiana.org
- vi. The Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) has not yet received an appointed chair.
- vii. ELAC is discussing membership processes and adding new individuals. Workgroup noted the importance of having family representation.
- viii. ELAC is discussing and reflecting on its focus.

b. National Updates

- i. NIEER State of Preschool report has been released and is posted under “News” on ELAC website. Reviewed Indiana facts and figures. Beth discussed that the Indiana numbers are difficult to compare with other states given that we’re still in a pilot phase versus more established state-wide programs. This is the third year Indiana has participated.



B. Family-Friendly Blogs

- a. In 2017, the workgroup wrote 5 blogs that were intended for families to be posted on the new family-facing Brighter Futures website.
- b. Workgroup discussed who could post these blog articles if they cannot be posted on Brighter Futures:
 - i. Can they be on the ELAC website? Ask Amanda.
 - ii. Process too long to get posted on QIRS.
 - iii. John will ask Early Childhood Alliance.
 - iv. Any other CCR&R organizations that would be willing to post the blogs?
 - v. Beth will check with Nicole about being able to post on a CCR&R website.
 - vi. John will check with the Indiana Association of UWs about posting on their websites.

C. Family Engagement Toolkit Outreach

- a. Ideas: Create a presentation to share with higher education folks that would like a presentation on family engagement. Also create a one pager.
- b. Reviewed power point presentation that explains the toolkit and discussed enhancements:
 - i. Share with those coming into the field;
 - ii. Add pictures of families;
 - iii. Family Engagement Improves Child Outcomes slide: perhaps add cultural awareness – or culture slide to the slideshow;
 - iv. Add slide that shows difference between involvement and engagement (after definition slide);
 - v. Make recommendation to ELAC that this guide is needed to be posted along with the FE Toolkit. (Then don't need to worry about above discussion on location to post.)
 1. Add to recommendation that this guide and toolkit could be shared with higher education and providers.
 2. Next meeting - create an outline of a one pager

D. Engagement of Family Voices

- a. Brighter Futures – new website is a platform for engaging families
 - i. Kirsten is heading up the marketing plan and will be tracking data on effectiveness
 - ii. Child Trends helped with this rollout
 - iii. John is interested in getting perspective of other workgroups on questions we should be asking families about engagement and do the other workgroups have any plans for family engagement in their work.
 - iv. Subgroup needs more members. Members can decide at next meeting which subgroup they would like to meet with.



- v. Come up with action plan at May meeting.

E. Transition to Kindergarten

- a. With the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) legislation and state plan, schools are being asked to coordinate children's transition to kindergarten and to specifically partner with Head Start programs and other early childhood education programs.
- b. Indiana Department of Education is looking for best practices to share from a school district perspective. What examples can we find as best practices from families/providers? Is there a scan nationally for best practices on transition to Kindergarten?
 - i. Is there a role here for us to support the work of DoE? Question for Erin.

Action Items

1. Beth Barrett and Olanda Lewis offered to check with Nicole Norvell about whether or not agencies receiving state funding can house the family engagement blogs.
2. John Peirce offered to talk with the Indiana Association of United Ways about the possibility of using one of their websites as a host site.
3. Lenore Friedly, Faiza Serang, and Andrea Gilkinson will review the blogs to make sure that the language is family-facing.
4. John Peirce will invite Erin Kissling to talk about transition in ESSA at a future meeting and how our workgroup might assist their work.
5. Ask Amanda if blogs can be posted on ELAC website.

F. Next Meeting

May 18, 2018 | 12:00 – 2:00pm | Early Learning Indiana Office