



Present:

Tonia Carriger, Betsy Delgado, Mary Gardner, Dr Nancy Holsapple, Nicole Norvell, Kerri Wortinger

1. Call to Order

- Betsy Delgado, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

2. Approve December Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve: Nicole
- Seconded: Kerri

3. 2020 Census – Counting Young Children

Tonia Carriger, Indiana Head Start State Collaboration Office

- The Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL) has been working as a partner to encourage child care providers and other early childhood education partners to be informed about the 2020 Census. There has been an undercount of children ages zero to five in previous years. So we want providers to discuss with parents why it's important for everyone to be counted, and that it's safe to participate.
- OECOSL plans to push information out in mid-March with text messages and emails. Posters in various languages have been created and shared with partners and providers. Also, on the provider swipe machines, there will be reminders to encourage them to have their parents participate in the Census. Messaging is also being sent directly to parents about participating.
- The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has also created materials for their K-12 and Pre-K providers.
- OECOSL met with a representative from the Chicago Region of the U.S. Census Bureau to discuss a "Statistics in Schools" program and went over a variety of materials including some Pre-K materials to ensure children are counted.
- FSSA and OECOSL doesn't see themselves as the frontline for Census participation but believes it is important and want to encourage parents to participate. They are members of a collaborative effort with the Complete Count Committee to get the word out.

Question from Betsy: Are you aware of the other work that's being done?



Response from Nicole: We've been meeting with state and local agencies to discuss strategies FSSA will be using and supporting. There may be other efforts, but we're only speaking to the early childhood portion.

Response from Tonia: The State School Board Association, State Principals Association, and others have been at the table and more are joining.

Response from Nancy: We have shared information out with special education directors, it's being shared on the IDOE website, and discussed at TITLE CON in April

4. 2020 and 2021 ELAC Annual Report Planning and Updates

Kim Hodge, Chair of Data Coordination and System Integration Workgroup

- Want to discuss what's going on and discuss the next year's report.
- 2020 Report
 - The workgroup came together to discuss the draft that's being worked on. Foundation is the Purdue report for PDG and also including some additional data with ECE workforce and funding that was not part of the PDG.
 - Expect the 2020 report to be pared down.
 - Final draft to workgroup in April and final draft to Committee in May.
- 2021 Report
 - Statute guides our work.
 - What we have done previously – current and past data is on the website
 - Areas of focus have been pretty consistent throughout the years.
 - Deliverables – annual report, interactive dashboard, county profiles
 - ELAC as a go-to source for data – growing interest and use of ELAC data, shared website views and downloads data
 - Have also historically done surveys
 - Examples of other State Early Learning Advisory Committee work
 - Illinois
 - Ohio
 - New York
 - What do we want to do with the 2021 Annual Report?
 - Do we want to stay consistent with past reports (specifically thinking of content and design)?
 - Are there any areas to remove, change, or add?

Comment from Betsy: I would like have consistency and the comparative year after year to show the work that's been going on. We should strive for consistent content around the data, and we need to keep having discussions about Kindergarten Readiness.



Comment from Nicole: We need to have a conversation about who is the end audience. Not sure it has been written in that way (for the Governor) and that's okay. We just need to discuss who is our end audience and that would then determine how it is presented. Is it legislators or community foundations (varies in length what they'd want). That's the lens to determine how to pull together the data and how to present it.

Comment from Betsy: If it's both audiences, it would need to have an executive summary as well as the full report.

Comment from Nicole: What we have not utilized in this year's report is the data roadmap work about where the system could go. I would hate to not utilize that information and would like the Workgroup to digest it and think about it for the next report. It lays out some recommendations on how to help children and families regarding work with data.

- 2021 Timeline

Question posed to the Committee from Kim: When would you like the report to be completed and submitted to the Governor's Office?

Response from Betsy: Thinks the audience might drive that

Response from Kim: I think it would be good to try to accommodate as many audiences as possible.

Comment from Nicole: I think if we're going back to our regular schedule (of submitting it in late fall), it would be okay, but given the short turnaround time, we may focus on a few key topics to communicate to legislators and others before January.

Response from Betsy: I wonder if that's our cadence is. We have the time to finish out the off year.

Question from Nicole to Betsy – When do you want to decide what key topics should be the focus?

Betsy: I would like to include more people and have time on the next meeting to take a list of 10 to talk down to 3. In the past how would you recommend doing that?

Amanda – In the past we've sent out a survey. It might be tight to put it on the May meeting, but you could hold an ad hoc meeting call.

Betsy – Would like to get the opinions of people on the phone, ELI, and others on a call between now and May and include Kim. I believe it's important to have the next report done in November-December but plan to have just a few areas of focus that will inform legislators for the legislative session.

5. Preschool Development Grant Update



Nicole Norvell, Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL)

- Indiana applied and did not receive the latest preschool development grant. 26 states were awarded grants and 40+ applied. We got a rubric back with strengths and weaknesses, but it included very little helpful feedback and we were denied time for individual feedback. We also received an average score from the panel of reviewers.
- A couple of large foundations have asked for the grant application and are interested in funding some parts, and OECOSL plans to apply for grants with other funders soon. Nicole doesn't expect the application to die but be funded in different ways.
- The plan is to bring key partners together at the end of April to discuss what to do next. Without the parameters of the grant application, would our plan look a little different?
- OECOSL is also interested in helping some local communities and foundations to pursue some areas from the grant application and help facilitate that work.
- All deliverables from the Preschool Development Grant are on the Brighter Futures website.
 - The workforce study should be on the website shortly.
 - An additional deliverable from the Indiana Business Research Center will also be uploaded soon and that will be the last piece added to the website.

6. CCDF and On My Way Pre-K (OMWPK) Changes/Updates

Nicole Norvell, Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL)

- Parent feedback showed they wanted their children enrolled so they'd be prepared for Kindergarten, and second that they wanted help paying for it. This will be reflected in future marketing materials.
- There are still a few counties with zero providers but expect that to change moving forward.

Question from John: Have we spent all annual funding for OMWPK 2019-2020?

Response from Nicole: Not sure of that answer because we're still paying. Kids are still in school. We will have a funding analysis when the school year is completed.

- There has been a 92% increase in high quality early childhood education programs statewide since the inception of OMWPK.
 - OECOSL wants to know how many kids have been impacted by it because it's more than just those that were enrolled in OMWPK.
- Staying true to the desire to have mixed delivery with pre-K, OMWPK providers are not all centers. (Chart of OMWPK providers by type in presentation shows 34% are



licensed centers, 38% are licensed homes, 12% are ministries, 13% public schools, and 3% private schools.)

- New for the 2020-2021 Year
 - Additional eligibility criteria for families
 - New online application
 - Virtual appointments
 - Updated policies
 - Additional community support positions
 - Updated marketing plans
- New for Families
 - Limited eligibility of children who reside with parents that have family income up to 185% Federal Poverty Level (other factors still remain).
 - This will be about 20% of grant funding.

Question from Nancy: How does this work for grandparents, a group that could fall into this new eligibility category.

Response from Nicole: We're hearing there are lots of grandparents interested, but we're not seeing in that in the data. And we're not seeing that they were denied so we're thinking they're not applying. It can get complicated with the different thresholds but tell them to apply and let us decide.

Comment from Betsy: It'd be nice to know who applies and is not eligible. Private philanthropy and others might be able to support those families.

Response from Nicole: The local offices do often refer those families to maybe Head Start, local community foundation funds, or in Marion County to Indianapolis Preschool Scholarship Program (PSP). But with grandparents, we think we missed them because they're not applying. We're having trouble finding them.

Question from Nancy: Is this information being shared with the Department of Child Services (DCS)? When they have foster placement and want familial first, grandparents may feel overwhelmed being 70 raising a 3-year-old.

Response from Nicole: We do have a mailing to foster care, TANF, etc. but we've had mixed response to that. It's possible they're feeling so overwhelmed that they feel they don't have the time to apply.

- For 80% of OMWPK scholarships, they're funded with part state funding and part federal funding to give extended service/eligibility. For traditional families, they can get at least 53 weeks and extends through the program year as well as summer. For the families in the 20% (up to 185% FPL), the funding is all from the state, and



the statute is limiting. They will receive a minimum of 34 weeks and maximum of 46 weeks of funding. Still no copay.

- What's New for Programs
 - For the children in the limited eligibility group, the maximum reimbursement payment is dictated by statute. For some, this is close to your market rate while for others it may be a loss of revenue. We're having interviews with providers across the state to see if they'll be able to take these children.

Question from Nancy: What happens if you have a county with only two providers and they say they can't take limited eligibility children?

Response from Nicole: They could take their children to another county, but we may run into instances where there may not be a provider to take limited eligibility children.

Question from Nancy: Is there a cap on how many a provider can accept?

Response from Nicole: There is no limit according to OMWPK but there are limits based on capacity according to their license.

- 2020-21 OMWPK Timeline
 - Everyone should start applying in March. We may hold their applications for a little while, but we'll call parents back later in the process.
- New Online Family Application – Early Ed Connect
 - In March, a family will be able to apply one time for the family (doesn't matter if it's OMWPK or CCDF, etc.). Previously a family could apply online for pre-K but would have to fill out a paper application for any other children under age five but not in pre-K.
 - OECOSL has changed/updated the language and functionality to help make the online application more accessible. There is now a button to turn the whole application into Spanish. There are plans to have additional languages but those would come post launch.
 - Document upload feature will allow people to take pictures of documents with their phone and upload into the application on a mobile device.
 - Users create a username and password which will give them the ability to review what they've submitted and make updates from year to year. They should also receive an email when an application is submitted.

Question from Kerri: You said you'd determine CCDF or OMW on the backend. Will you be telling providers which they've decided?

Response from Nicole: Providers would receive the same amount of information they have in the past. We just didn't want the families to have to answer that question.



Comment from Kerri: We're looking at should we be looking to prioritize CCDF three-year olds, so this will be helpful.

- Updated Provider Applications/Agreements
 - These are all being signed now and providers made aware of these changes.

7. Early Learning Assessment Tool Changes Update

Nicole Norvell, Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL)

- Kindergarten Readiness Indicators (KRI) are included in statute.
- Historically this was covered by the ISTAR-KR but the state has adopted Kindergarten Readiness Indicators (KRI) to be the new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA).
 - The KRI was developed by the University of Chicago focused on six academic content areas predictive of school success.
 - This assessment tool is not intended to provide student level data for teachers to use at this time.
 - It'll be mandatory for OMWPK students, but we'll encourage the whole classroom to receive the assessment.
 - Training will be required for all teachers administering the KRI and will be offered in-person and virtually. Teachers who take the training must also be certified to administer the KRI. Training will be provided at no cost.
 - Expect training to be made available in early March. Currently finalizing the assessment window.
 - KRI will be a mobile-optimized web application. It takes about 12-15 minutes to administer to each student.
 - We don't anticipate any costs to providers for this.
 - Are there any exceptions?
 - There are some for this year only. If a provider does not have an appropriate device with which to administer the assessment or do not have a reliable internet connection, they can apply for a waiver for this year.

Question from Kerri: Can you start the assessment, save and return?

Response from Nicole: That is my understanding, but I don't think you'll find children who cannot do it in one session.

Question from Mary: Can you get the data at the program level?

Response from Nicole: I believe that is possible, but it'll depend on your sample size because you can't receive information at the student level.

8. Public comment



- Comment from Kerri: It is encouraging to hear that we're all navigating this. Seeing the work that OECOSL is doing and the Head Start Collaboration Office is doing to get children in spots is encouraging. We're all trying to work through barriers to get children enrolled.

9. Nancy moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:12pm, Mary seconded.

10. Next Meeting: May 27, 2020 at 1pm at Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana