



Attendees

Kim Hodge, Sarah Mihich, John Peirce, Ann Puckett-Harpold, Krystal Robinson, Sara Gropp, Amanda Lopez, Melissa Wall

Key Topics Discussed

A. Updates

1. No ELAC updates.
2. National Updates
 - i. John: The legislature did not report an early budget forecast yet. That is expected in December. I have heard that Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) has been asked to cut their budget by 15%. So whatever goes in our recommendations needs to have realistic expectations.
 - a. John: Do we typically send the report out to U.S. congressional members?
That's the only place where the money is. We might want to consider sending it to them this next time to spur some discussions with the next aid package.
 - ii. Kim: I'm excited to see the transition with the CARES Act money which will be handled by the child care resource & referrals (CCR&Rs). We're seeing programs having to decide whether to formally close.
 - iii. Krystal: The application went live last Thursday for programs for the Indiana CARES About Childhood Fund. There are two different tracks to this opportunity – emergency fund for programs that have had a positive COVID case for what they need to reopen, and the other track is a support track for programs to apply for funding that's more open in its scope such as various materials, staffing, mental health supports, etc. There is more information on the Brighter Futures website. The biggest eligibility piece would be providers that accept Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) vouchers.
 - iv. Kim: I've been pulling resources from previous work from this workgroup to put forth as we develop a data committee for key system partners (Early Learning Indiana, Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, CCR&Rs, and SPARK). I look forward to the ELAC Data Workgroup continuing to inform the work of this data committee moving forward.
 - a. Amanda: Perhaps we can pull out some of the documents utilized by Ed-Fi on how they planned to clean up and connect data sources.

B. ELAC 2021 Annual Report



1. Since this report is very different than what ELAC has traditionally reported on, should we modify the title?
 - i. John: Does that mean we would release another report for 2021?
 - a. Kim: I don't think that was the intention, but that 2021 would be a gap year and we'd reset with 2021. If we get back on track, the data from April 2021 would inform the 2022 report. We've also discussed how do we move forward with a report that may look different in previous years after all of the system changes? Hopefully the new data committee will also help clear up some of the data challenges we've had.
2. Table of Contents
 - i. Very different structure than previous reports based on questions from the Committee around the impact of COVID-19.
3. Executive Summary
 - i. John: Add in the recommendations to this section so someone can quickly reference them.
4. Child Care is an Essential Service
 - i. John: Nicole noted that On My Way Pre-K (OMWPK) enrollment is down significantly in urban areas and not as much in rural areas. Sounds like it goes along this same idea of what companies could close and work from home in urban areas where industry in rural areas couldn't close.
 - ii. Sarah: Perhaps we add in the number of individuals collecting unemployment and could possibly make the point that by collecting unemployment, they need access to affordable child care to seek employment.
 - a. Melissa: We can review the U.S. Census Pulse Survey for that additional data.
5. Impact on Child Care Supply
 - i. What is most valuable to show the change in supply?
 - a. John: Change chart on pg. 7 to donut chart or add a line at the bottom to show total programs and 100%.
 - ii. John: Perhaps add a minus sign to the percentages and maybe numbers to indicate a decline.
6. Impact on the Supply of Quality Programs
 - i. John: Thinking about all the investment that partners made to get OMWPK and to improve program quality, we don't want to lose all of that work and investment by letting those programs close during the pandemic. Is there a way to kind of emphasize that?
 - a. Amanda: We can add some more text there to emphasize that point. John if you have some ideas of what to include there, send them along.
 - ii. John: Update the donut chart about programs that are closed that were high quality to make it more clear exactly what's being said there.



- iii. Check the numbers on the Paths To QUALITY numbers from 2019 to 2020 that the denominators/totals are the same, that we're comparing the same datasets.
- 7. Needs and Supports
 - i. Provider survey – let us know if you feel there's any additional information from the survey that should be included here.
 - ii. Change the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL) grants to a federal fund source since that money didn't come from the state or its tax base.
 - a. There might be more information that could be added on how that program went.
 - iii. OECOSL grant data included programs that served school-age children only. Do we want to include those programs?
 - a. Kim: I think it's important context.
 - b. Amanda: We can make a note of the eligibility for these and how CCDF can serve children up through age 13.
 - iv. The Come Back Stronger Fund data will be updated.
 - a. John: Can we add a box to summarize these funds, how much, and who was helped?
 - b. Amanda: Yes, I think that would be helpful.
 - v. Krystal: The Get Back To Work Campaign provided information to providers and families. It was a two-pronged approach. Providers were offered templates on how to communicate the changes being implemented to families.
 - a. Amanda: When was that launched?
 - b. Krystal: I want to say possibly the end of June, but I will double check for you.
 - vi. What Do Families Need
 - a. Amanda: Possibly here (after family need) we can talk about affordability and possibly include other funding streams that we typically report on.
 - b. Kim: After the Census data on family needs, perhaps we highlight other state campaigns that addressed these issues such as the "Be Well" campaign.
 - vii. Kim: Thinks the section on needs and supports is in the right place, but some connections to the earlier sections might make it seem like it fits more.
- 8. Implications
 - i. This is basically a summary of key takeaways section. If there's another title to include, we are welcome to changing it.
 - ii. Kim: Is the idea of a pandemic within a pandemic something we can fit in this report? I think it's an important point.
 - a. Amanda: That should be able to fit in here or possibly in the previous section.
- 9. Recommendations



- i. Kim: I think it's always important to advocate for funding, especially with some of the impending cuts.
 - a. Amanda: After the temporary assistance grants helped to keep the lights on, how do we stabilize the industry?
 - ii. Kim: I think COVID has highlighted the importance of community support. I know John wanted to pull some more employer testimonials because businesses were exposed to having more employees deal with child care issues.
 - iii. Amanda: Are there some lessons learned here to help strengthen and support the high-quality programs? Anecdotally, I heard a lot of programs were not eligible to apply for things like PPP. How do we strengthen the business side?
 - a. Krystal: We've known this was an issue for a long time, but COVID really heightened the issue of needing to strengthen the business side.
 - iv. Amanda: Data reporting and sharing is always an issue we include here. We shared in the report a few issues we ran into, and communities and partners sometimes struggled with knowing who was open.
 - v. Kim: Let's focus this to about 3-4 recommendations.
 - vi. John: I have a small laundry list of recommendations. I looked at the National Council of State Legislatures to see what they had. One was paying providers based on enrollment/attendance. That might be a model to consider moving forward.
 - a. Krystal: There were some flexibilities offered like number of personal days, but I don't know the specifics. That would be a good question for Nicole.
 - vii. John: We saw evidence of communities and funders stepping up, but employers have been asking what they could do to help. Some states offer tax credits to encourage employer support. This could also be used to encourage a shared services model.
 - viii. John: Right now the state doesn't have any money, so a lot of what we might need would need to come from the federal government. But I don't think this is necessarily the place to make that argument.
 - ix. John: The National Council has advocated a lot of temporary fixes rather than long-term, systemic solutions.
10. Executive Summary
- i. What jumped out to you? What should we highlight?
 - a. John: Certainly the closing data and how fragile the sector is. Perhaps highlighting the growth of high-quality programs and how we want to preserve that investment.
 - b. Sarah: Something to highlight are the current challenges of parents.



- c. Kim: With the closures, number of programs versus the number of children that were lost. And what is this compared to what we know the gap is and how that gap got dramatically bigger.
 - i. Amanda: We can highlight those that need care with the capacity of those who stayed open. And also highlight how they aren't able to operate at capacity due to social distancing and other COVID procedures.
 - ii. Kim: There's also the difference in care type and who was left open.
- d. Amanda: What about including a data point about how programs need to operate at 80% capacity, and they were only operating at about 50%?
 - i. Yes.
- e. John: When we think of some of the frontline workers, they may be the ones that need the CCDF dollars (lower-wage jobs).

C. ELAC 2021 Annual Report Dashboard

- 1. Do we have a dashboard this year?
 - i. Kim: I think if we have the data to include and it is still of value, we should do it. Having the county drilldown is very important.
 - ii. The number of programs open/temporarily closed as of June 30th can be included at the county level.
 - iii. Do we want to include any of the grant information?
 - a. Kim: I know there has been some questions about how much funding has been given to each county from different funding streams.
 - b. If we have information that is valuable, we should try to include it.

D. Timeline

- 1. Next committee meeting is November 6th. We want to get them a draft two weeks before which is October 23rd.
- 2. By Monday (10/12), the workgroup should send any additional comments or edits to share.
- 3. Next draft of the report and dashboard to the workgroup by 10/16 or 10/19.
 - i. Share as an online document so that the workgroup can see each other's feedback.
 - ii. If we need any additional feedback, there can be an ad hoc meeting.
- 4. The week of 10/19 we would finalize the report.



Action Items

1. Workgroup to review updated report draft before it is sent on to ELAC.

Next Meeting

TBD