



Attendees

Missy Modesitt, Lauren Olsen, Krystal Robinson, Kristi Linson, John Peirce, Son Dao, Sara Gropp, Cathy Wright

Key Topics Discussed

I. Welcome!

II. Updates

- A. Sara started the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves including their current roles.
- B. Additional agenda items for today
 - No agenda items were added
- C. ELAC Updates
 - Next Meeting: TBD based on the Data Workgroups progress on the Report.
- D. National News
 - John: Statewide Advocacy Coalition, called Early Education Works, headed by the United Way of Central Indiana, met today and has been in conversations with the governor and IDOE, and FSSA about modernizing our ECE system. The governor will be proposing his legislative agenda in mid-December, so we are waiting to see if he has any announcements.

III. ELAC Annual Report

A. Part 1 – Update on data requests

Sara reported that most information for Part 1 on Young Children and Families has been received, but we are still waiting for data from DOE. We have followed up, but still haven't received the data.

This causes a gap in information for school-based programs that are not licensed or otherwise recognized by the state. What do we think about moving forward with or without DOE data?

John: Do you think we will be getting the information?



Sara: I think so, I followed up with them and it seemed like the data would be forthcoming, but that was a couple months ago. This is unlike them, though. We are behind on the draft report, so we need to decide on whether to wait, or move on without their data.

John: The State Session will start in early January and end in early March, and they have so much on their plate this year, that I don't know that it is important to get the report out for this session. I know in the past we've had state senators asking for the latest information, and I've not heard of that this year. I think we need to know if people are asking for it right now, and if not, wait for the data.

Sara: I can check in with Kim to see if people are asking for the information, and, if not, we can wait longer. Other than that, I feel good with the other data sources and information we've been able to gather.

B. Part 2 – Update on data request

Sara reported that requested data on Workforce Development was received back quickly. We could release reports for Parts 1 and 2 more closely together than we thought. What are your thoughts on that? We originally planned for March or April, but we could move forward on this Part more quickly.

John: If it works out, could Parts 1 and 2 be combined? In the meeting I was in today, people said there is data from employers said that lack of childcare is a big reason why parents aren't going back to work. Someone else asked if we know from the families why they are going back to work. Are we addressing that in this report? Do we have data from parents?

Sara: I believe there are some national studies, but not state-specific surveys.

Mindy: I think this is a critical question that we need to look at. With all of the funding that is coming down, we need this type of data to make decisions, when providers are making decisions about how to use that funding for staffing.

Sara: It sounds like we want to explore the possibility of Parts 1 and 2 being in the same report? I'm leaning that direction too.

C. Review Report Outline



Sara reviewed the 2022 Annual Report outline at a high level.

- Accessibility - has been put on hold until IDOE data is received and can be combined with the other information received.
- High Quality - we are able to inform partially, but we need some more percentages.
- Affordability - we have information from ELI and FSSA, so that will be a deep dive into that information after not having it for the last couple of years.
- All three parts of the report will have a focus on the business of childcare and the impact of the focus area of each part of the report, so, in the first part of the report, it will explore the impact of ECE on children and families.
- Sara reviewed each part of the report, asking for input along the way.
 - Young Children and Families: The census has delayed the release of the population data we normally use. Easy Access to Juvenile Population will have some 2020 data, but the rest will be 2019 data. Should we just use 2019 data across the board?

John: I keep hearing people (like Maureen Weber) question the statistic that 64% of households need care because all parents are working. Is that true now that more people are working from home? We may not have fresh enough data to know this, but I think it is an important data point to know.

Sara: We might have that when the new census data is released in March.

Kristi: I would strongly disagree that there is data backing up that fewer parents need child care now because they are working from home. We've found during COVID that there is a lot of stress when people work from home and have to care for their children. Just because a person is working from home, doesn't mean they don't need child care.

Sara: The census doesn't say, this child needs care. It just looks at how many parents in the home of young children are working.

John: So the data probably won't change a lot since they are still working, just from a different location. I agree with Kristi, that just because someone is working from home, doesn't mean they don't need ECE.

Lauren: When we use that statistic, we refer to it as "children who may be in need of care." Just because a child may need care, does not mean they are in care for many



different reasons like parents having different work shifts, grandparents watching children, etc.

John: That is an intelligent disclaimer that we may want to use if we haven't used it before.

Sara: Historically when we've featured it, we generally explain that these numbers represent the numbers that we have, and that children may or may not need care, but we don't know where they are. What are we thinking about waiting for 2020 data or using 2019 data.

Lauren: I wonder if there will be any affect in 2020 data since they may not have been working due to COVID and answered that they weren't working then, but are again now. Unemployment data in Indiana shows that we are now back to pre-pandemic levels of employment.

Kristi: I agree. I don't think we should use 2020 data.

Sara: OK, I appreciate that insight.

- Young Children and Family is typical of what we've generally reported. New information will be the "Vulnerable Populations" section looking at homelessness and foster care. The State of Babies for 2021 released valuable information for babies and toddlers, so I chose to feature that for this section. Indiana's housing instability for infants and toddlers is less than the national average, but foster care is much higher than the national average for the same age group.
- CCDF Vouchers by race, and whether or not they are in a high-quality program, and foster children served by CCDF, and whether or not they are in a high-quality program.
- On My Way Pre-K data can be by age, race/ethnicity, but not by foster care/homelessness.

Kristi: When we talk about vulnerable populations, is there a reason we don't have data on children with special healthcare, or special needs?

Sara: There is not a reason, I'm willing to add that.

Kristi: I think that is something we should add, at least in the future.

John: I like that idea.

Sara: I don't remember if that just hasn't come up before or why it hasn't been included. The Head Start information is new, and I think they have information on disabilities. Are there any other sources to consider on these vulnerable populations?



- Accessibility - We are still waiting for IDOE data, so a lot of this section is still highlighted, but ELI and FSSA have given us good data at the program level, and provided information on capacity and enrollment, that we've been able to crosswalk.
- At our last meeting, we realized that the ELI data separates program types differently than FSSA, as center-licensed and center-exempt. I was thinking we would add the centers together, but then I realized they it seems like most of the exempt centers are school-based programs, and so the exempt programs should probably go into the school-based programs.

Krystal: Exempt and school-based can be a little different, because you might have an AYS that are based in a school.

Lauren: I think it is a matter of coming up with a definition and using the data for that definition, so a school-based means that it is located in the school during the school day, and not an before/after school program.

Sara: Is it OK if I reach out to you to help narrow down those definitions?

Lauren: Yes.

Krystal: I had a similar thought when I was working with some stabilization grant information, so I wanted to be mindful of that.

Lauren: School aged children should be eliminated from the data, right?

Sara: Yes

- High Quality - I feel confident with this data. We only have two counties that do not have any HQ programs, and we have over 1,600 HQ programs, which is higher than last year, and is a 7% increase from 2019.
- Affordability - We haven't had this section recently. We have data from ELI and FSSA. This is the first time we've received this data from FSSA, usually we use ELI's data for this, and we'll probably continue with that for consistency.

Krystal: It could be close to the same data, because we provide cost data to FSSA.

Sara: I haven't looked at it closely, so you are probably right. This section will also include public funding sources.



- Business of Child Care/Impact on Young Children and Families - Last year we created the COVID impact dashboard, and we stopped updating that in July, but have ongoing information from FSSA. Maybe we should have a trend to show how we've ended up? Or, is there something else we should show?

Missy: I like the idea of showing the trend.

- Recommendations - After we finish drafting the report, we normally work together to come up with some recommendations. Are there callouts you like? Like featuring the top and bottom counties. Or what else do you think we should emphasize?

Missy: I like the featuring the top and bottom counties.

Sara: If we want to consider adding workforce to the report, where do we think that fits in?

Missy: At By5, we usually include Workforce under Accessibility.

Sara: That makes sense. I think we've put it under quality too.

IV. Review of Action Items for Next Meeting

- Sara to discuss combining Parts 1 and 2 with Kim.
- Sara to work with Lauren on ELI data groupings.

V. Next Meeting:

Friday, January 28, 2022, 1-2:30pm EDT

VI. Adjournment