



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

Illinois Professional Development System

PDAC Steering Committee Agenda

December 14, 2016

Telenet Minutes

Anne Wharff	Johnna Darragh Ernst	Laurie Rhodes
Christy Allen	Joni Scritchlow	Lisa Downey
Deb Widenhofer	Joyce Weiner	Lynn Burgett
Debbie Rogers Jaye	Julie Lindstrom	Marsha Hawley
Diana Rosenbrock	Karen McCarthy	Sharyl Robin
Diane Scruggs	Lauri Morrison Frichtl	Tammy Notter
Joellyn Whitehead		

Welcome and Introductions – Deb Widenhofer and Marsha Hawley, Co-Chairs

- Deb and Marsha welcomed participants to the meeting.
 - Bryan Stokes left the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) to take a position with Illinois Action for Children. GOECD will need to appoint a representative to Steering.

Review and Approval of Minutes – Marsha Hawley

- October 26, 2016
 - Diana Rosenbrock motioned to approve the minutes.
 - Tammy Notter seconded the motion.
 - Minutes approved.

Recap and Feedback from the PDAC Annual Meeting – Deb Widenhofer

- Deb highlighted responses from a survey that was sent to PDAC Annual meeting attendees:
 - All respondents from the survey felt the meeting was time well spent.
 - Dr. Li
 - Dr. Li’s use of the word and examples of the phrase “deep and simple” resonated with attendees.
 - The idea that quality is more than an assessment tool.
 - Respondents appreciated his focus on relationships.
 - Dr. Applegate
 - The common thread of the responses was the idea of pathways for students, especially as we think about moving people out of poverty or low wage positions.
 - How do we assess and use prior learning to be a part of the career pathway?
 - What responses warrant further discussion from PDAC Steering?
 - How do we measure quality?
 - How do we think about prior learning?
 - How do we make relationships a larger part of assessments?
 - Dr. Li mentioned if there are ways that his work and/or Fred Rogers Center’s work might connect with PDAC he would be willing to support this.
 - Joni will send the Lumina Foundation report to the Steering Committee members as possible background reading in preparation for the Steering retreat in January. Data from the report was used in Dr. Applegate’s presentation.

- Need more discussion regarding the process of acquiring a credential via competencies. Especially for those in the workforce working towards credentials, is there a way to use prior learning with competencies?

Year End Statewide Updates in Relation to PDAC

- Illinois Department of Human Services – Anne Wharff
 - Notices regarding the health and safety trainings for all providers who receive Childcare Assistance Program (CAP) funding have been prepared, but are delayed as IDHS is working with labor relations regarding SEIU contract issues.
 - In regards to the budget, once the 12 month eligibility goes into effect there will be a shifting of childcare funding. It will cost more for 12 months eligibility verses the current 6 month eligibility.
 - As of today a replacement has not been named to take on duties when Anne leaves December 30, 2016.
- Illinois State Board of Education – Lynn Burgett and Karen McCarthy
 - Three RFP's have been developed and issued for FY18:
 - Prevention Initiative Birth to Three
 - Preschool For All
 - Preschool For All Expansion
 - RFPs will be posted in January 2017. Proposals will be submitted and reviewed electronically. Once the RFPs are posted, programs will have 60 days to submit.
 - New FY17 funding for Preschool for All Expansion models and Prevention Initiative programs:
 - 24 of 37 Preschool Expansion model proposals were funded in October 2016. These proposals were for new classrooms. A webinar was provided in November for new PFA Expansion model grantees. Grantees will be provided technical assistance through the Early Child Center for Professional Development (ECCPD) with funding provided by ISBE.
 - 46 existing Prevention Initiative programs received funding, with the goal to build capacity and strengthen their existing programs.
 - Professional Development Activities:
 - ISBE will shift from the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-R) to the ECERS-3 in FY18. Training in early 2017 will be targeted to those providing technical assistance, including ISBE staff; Preschool for All coaches; Expansion Model Program Support Specialists; and STARNET resource staff. ISBE will roll out trainings for PFA programs in the spring. They will be included on training calendars through STARNET and ECCPD.
 - Pyramid Model, plan for training and state-side rollout for program staff who are in need of more support in helping children with social and emotional needs. The model looks at teacher practice and interactions. Plans are underway for a train-the-trainer in early summer 2017.
 - KIDS will be fully implemented in FY 18. In FY17, districts are preparing for implementation.
- Illinois Head Start Association – Lauri Morrison Frichtl
 - Congress approved a 19% across the board cut in spending which includes Head Start.
 - Tom Price has been nominated as Secretary of Health and Human Services. Betsy DeVos has been nominated as Secretary of Education. Virginia Fox is the potential new chair of the Education Workforce Committee.

A question was raised about PDAC's role in taking an advocacy position. When a topic of concern ties into PDAC's mission or value for professional development PDAC leadership will determine if a position could be taken and how to move it forward.

- Office of Early Childhood Development
 - OECD is reconfiguring staff. PDAC will continue to communicate with Kathy Stohr until notified.
- Illinois Board of Higher Education
 - The monograph is expected to be published before the end of December 2016, with statewide dissemination expected in late January 2017. A second report of policies and practices will be published in January 2017.
- DCFS Workforce Advisory Council
 - A breakout session call was held earlier in the month.

Update on PDAC Recommendations – Joni Scritchlow

- The following recommendations will be sent to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for review and potential approval:
 - The Workforce Development and Pathways (WDP) Committee recommendation to increase assistant teacher requirements to a Gateways ECE Credential Level 2 by 2025.
 - The WDP recommendation to increase teacher requirements to a Gateways ECE Credential Level 3 by 2025 and Level 4 by 2030.
 - The Steering recommendation for teachers to have a Gateways ECE Level 2 by 2020.
 - Typically the implementation of the recommendation would fall under the jurisdiction of Department of Human Services.
 - These recommendations, which place credentials within DCFS licensing standards, should be forwarded to DCFS to enact. The recommendations will be moved formally to DCFS, updates on the status of these recommendations will be given to Steering.

Potential Agenda Topics for Meeting at Eastland Suites on January 12th & 13th

- Assessment of prior learning will be added to the agenda.
- Johnna will coordinate reading materials to be given out before the retreat to enhance our understanding of competencies.
- Competencies
 - Will spend a great deal of time during the retreat on competencies including the following topics:
 - Implications of the competencies for attainment of credentials.
 - Training systems.
 - Movement across all credentials.
 - Timelines.
 - Embedding competencies within higher education.
 - Rubrics and toolboxes.
 - Micro-credentials.
- Infant Toddler Report published in October 2016
 - A copy of the report will be sent in advance of the retreat for committee members.
- Review comments from the Annual Meeting.
- Review of the Strategic Plan
 - What has been accomplished, in process, and/or needs to get off the ground.
 - What are potential challenges in 2017 and how can we continue to advance movement for professional development.
- Family Specialist Credential Recommendation

- Children’s Cabinet
 - The Children’s Cabinet has adopted three topics to focus on, one of which is the early childhood workforce development. They are beginning their work, will meet in the near future. Cynthia Tate is in charge of the Cabinet with Kathy Stohr as the primary contact person.
- Building Intentional Relationships
 - Considerable movement of individuals within state agencies that PDAC has had relationships with that are retiring or moving to new positions.
 - How does PDAC Steering address the need to develop intentional relationships, so we have key contacts with state agencies?

Thoughts for the Future – Anne Wharff

- The best practitioners have been intentionally prepared for their roles, whatever their roles might be.
- Think about early child care and education having three major funding streams. They are all designed to meet the needs of children and families, but they each have a different twist.
 - Child care is focused on low income working families, especially those with difficult work schedules.
 - Head Start programs focus on very poor families, work is not a requirement, and is a family service program.
 - State Pre K has a wide range of eligibility requirements and they offer the same services as child care and Head Start.
- We want people in charge of these programs to be intentional in their preparation.
 - All have shared professional development opportunities including: qualifications, course work, and trainings.
- Anne was thanked for her many years of service to PDAC.

Adjourn

- The PDAC retreat will be held at Eastland Suites and Conference Center on January 12th and 13th. Starting time for the 12th will be at 10:00AM. Hotel confirmation numbers and advance reading materials will be sent before January 6th.

