



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY®

Illinois Professional Development System

Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC)

Family Specialist Credential Committee Telenet

February 20, 2018

9:00 – 10:30 am

Attendees:

Diana Rosenbrock

Diane Scruggs*

Granada Williams

Heather Seitz

*denotes co-chair

Jamilah R. Jor'dan*

Joni Scritchlow

Molly Nord

Penny Smith

Shauna Ejeh

Stephanie Hellmer

Tami O'Daniel

Welcome –*Jamilah R. Jor'dan, co-chair*

December 19, 2017 Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes made by Shauna Ejeh.
- Motion seconded by Heather Seitz.
- Motion passed and minutes approved.

Recommendation Updates

- **FSC Renewal Recommendation:**
 - The Qualifications and Credentials (QC) Committee reviewed four separate renewal recommendations; inclusive of the Family Specialist Credential (FSC).
 - During this call the QC Committee discussed the need for consistency across the renewal requirements for all Gateways Credentials.
 - The QC Committee will be putting together a recommendation for renewal requirement guidelines. Points that will be discussed further at the next QC meeting included:
 - The goal is for consistency across all Credentials.
 - Credential renewal is every five years and requires a minimum of 45 clock hours of professional development.
 - For example: If an individual has more than one Credential to be renewed, the QC Committee will decide a minimum threshold of clock hours of professional development specific to each Credential being renewed. Therefore, if an individual is renewing more than three Credentials, the minimum clock hours may exceed 45 hours of professional development.
 - Question: The FSC renewal recommendation passed during the QC Committee telenet. Does that mean that this recommendation is tabled?
 - Yes, even though two renewal recommendations were passed (School-Age & Youth Development Credential and Family Specialist Credential) they are on hold until a holistic renewal recommendation is developed by the QC Committee.
 - The FSC Committee was in agreement with the findings from the QC Committee.
- **FSC Home Visitor CDA Recommendation (Attachment A):**
 - On January 20th, 2017, PDAC approved the FSC Committee's recommendation for the Home Visitor CDA to be counted toward FSC attainment as meeting half of the

education and training requirements for the FSC Level 2 and can be used as three points of credential approved training for the FSC Level 3. The point distribution is as follows:

- 1 point Human Growth & Development
 - 1 point in Health, Safety, & Well-Being
 - 1 point Interactions, Relationships & Environments
 - The Home Visitor CDA also meets the work and practical experience for the FSC Level 2 and 3.
- At this time, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) has yet to approve this recommendation.
 - With all Gateways Credentials shifting to a competency based model, this recommendation utilizing “points” is no longer seeking approval.
 - Question: Can the Home Visitor CDA be used to meet competencies?
 - A consultant cross-walked the Family Specialist Credential competencies to the Home Visitor CDA. This cross-walk will be shared with the Committee during the April 17th telenet.

Overview of Family Specialist Credentials (FSC) Awarded

- Inclusive of pilot and post-pilot applicants, a total of 330 Family Specialist Credentials have been awarded.
- INCCRRA staff have been piloting awarding Family Specialist Credentials using competencies and have found a high correlation between eligibility with “points” versus competencies.
 - The tendency is that 80% align, 10% would earn a higher FSC level, and 10% would have a lower FSC level eligibility.
 - The field has not been informed of the shift to competencies.
 - Higher Education Institutions and trainers are building capacity before competencies are publicized to the field.
- INCCRRA staff has just begun to pilot awarding the ECE, Infant Toddler, and Illinois Director Credential.

Human Growth & Development Content Area Discussion (Attachment B)

- During the pilot, the Committee utilized a wide variety of human growth and development courses for applicants to obtain “points” in the FSC Content Area of Human Growth & Development (HGD).
- During the pilot, HGD included “children from the prenatal stage through age 21”.
- With the shift to competencies, the HGD Content Area is defined as:
 - Family specialists view family systems knowledge and human development across the **lifespan** as the core of their professional practice. They engage in ongoing learning and reflection about family knowledge and theory, and understand typical and atypical functioning and development within the context of family, culture and society. They use their understanding to plan and implement assessment and services. Knowledge of family functioning and human development inform collaboration with families and other team members on behalf of the whole family and individual family members, including children.
 - The Family Specialist Credential HGD competencies are:
 - HGD1: Identifies and describes theories of typical and atypical growth in all developmental domains.
 - HGD2: Identifies and describes human development in the context of families and communities.
- Some of the original HGD “benchmarks”, now referred to as competency “descriptors”, shifted into other content areas – Curriculum or Program Design (CPD) and Family & Community Relationships (FCR).

- Under the “point” system, no child or human development course was excluded as any development course was considered full credit in HGD.
- **Discussion question:** With the shift to competencies, would a development course with a narrow age range (i.e. birth to three or birth to eight), fully meet the Human Growth & Development (HGD) competencies?
 - **Group consensus:** The FSC Committee would like to have time to think about this and may request additional information before making a final decision. INCCRRA staff will add this discussion to the April 17th FSC telenet.

Entitled Route Pilot Schools move to Competencies (Attachment C and D)

- With the shift to competencies, all pilot institutions have been asked to renew Gateways FSC entitlement using competencies.
- FSC Committee previously approved Eastern Illinois University as a pilot institution for the Family Specialist Credential.
- Eastern Illinois University (EIU) realigned their current coursework to the FSC competencies in the Entitled Application (Attachment C) as well as submitting updated course syllabi (Attachment D).
 - Competencies build upon each other and all competencies are required to be assessed in order to obtain a Level 5.
 - Level 2 – yellow
 - Level 3 – green
 - Level 4 – orange
 - Level 5 – blue
- **Group Consensus:** The FSC Committee approves EIU’s competency application.
- **Question:** What other institutions have shown interest in becoming entitled for the Family Specialist Credential?
 - Contact and visits have been made with several schools including:
 - Northern Illinois University
 - Joliet Junior College
 - Southwestern Illinois College
 - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
 - Kennedy-King College
 - South Suburban College
 - Jamilah R. Jor’dan will email INCCRRA staff with more information regarding City Colleges of Chicago.

Announcements

- It is with deepest sympathy that Dr. Paula Jorde Bloom, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership founder, passed away Saturday, February 17, 2018.
- FY18 Meeting Dates
 - 4th Quarter Tuesday, April 17th, 2018 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
 - *Final FSC Telenet* *May/June, 2018* *TBD*

Adjourned at 10:19 am.

Attachments available upon request.

