



PDAC FINANCIAL SUPPORTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday May 20, 2025

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Meeting by Teams

Minutes

Present: Sue Murphy, Jill Bella, Marcy Mendenhall, Laurie Rhoades, Nichole Miller, Melissa Ferguson, Trinita Winston, Gail Nelson, Erika Mendez, Rebecca Livengood

Welcome and Introductions

Laurie welcomed everyone at 1:02.

Follow up from Steering in Person Meeting Combined Committee Work

- Work with Higher Education Committee - Funding Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)
- Work with Workforce Development & Pathways – Funding CDA and incorporating it into the pathway
 - Find a place for the CDA within our existing framework.
 - Discussed having ECE Level 1 being a pre-service. CDA allows employee to be teacher qualified and legal. The ECE Level 2 is not qualified to be a teacher.

Apprenticeship Model

<https://www.ilgateways.com/smart-start/smart-start-early-childhood-apprenticeship-program>

- SAL Model and Supports (Marcy Mendenhall)
- Works with high school who offers CDA as part of coursework with ECE Level 1 also incorporated. They send students to the SSAL programs to get their experience. Found many students do the work but never finish the CDA qualification.
- Apprenticeship program transfer the high school students directly into the workforce with their CDA. The WIOA board is paying for the CDA.

Prior Learning Assessment

<https://www.ilgateways.com/professional-development/prior-learning-assessment-pilot>

- Dr. Marie Donovan, DePaul University – CPL/PLA: What's happening in Illinois
 - Marie shared slides.
 - Must transfer for as an actual course (not just credit)
 - Transcript – for what course was awarded. But this is only for reimbursement of a successful completion of the PLA.
 - Students cant use scholarship to take a portfolio class (because it's not ECE)
 - Questions for the committee
 - What is the maximum amount the state would cover?
 - Is it only a reimbursement for successful credit? Or would we pay it upfront?
 - What would a student show as proof to receive the reimbursement?

- Data we need
 - Comprehensive list of who charges what for what? So we can look at what a range? Marie will share list and ranges.
 - Do we look at scholarship and PDF together. Do we ask Toni and someone with specific knowledge of PDF funds to visit a meeting and share information.
- What we learned about PLA from Higher Ed Committee (tri-chairs)

Committee Discussion

- Melissa – Very supportive of the CDA. She shared they had 37 graduates of their local CDA program. When programs hire new employees, they ask the local CCR&R have them be on the list, because they know when they finish, they are teacher qualified. They have training on their own time. 80% are center staff and 20% are FCC.
- August 1st CDA cost has risen \$100 (has increased since 2013)
- The CCR&R grant only goes to \$500 in support.
- CDA would meet the ECE Credential Level 1. Should consider where the CDA fits into ExceleRate.
- CDA trainings be Gateways approved, and those trainings would count for credential credit.
- Nichole – CDA was written into ECE Credential Level 2 – Having a well defined process and pathway. In their local area they do CDA in 1st year. There is a combination of supported time and time on their own. The program also offered raise incentives, but this has become harder with Smart Start
- Marcy shared that SAL provides the work time to do this.
- Sue – CDA cohort, it is overwhelming with activity. Two new centers in Springfield area. She will start a cohort in a center and be overwhelmed with participants.
- Looking at how other states give more credit for the CDA. Illinois gives 6 (or maybe more) Iowa gives 16, and Oregon also gives more.

Next Steps

Proposed FY26 meeting schedule

Aug 19, Oct 28, Jan 27, March 24, May 19th, July 21
1:00pm – 2:30pm

FY 25 meeting schedule

1:00pm – 2:30pm

~~August 20, October 22, Jan 21, March 18,~~ May 20, July 22