



**GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY**  
Illinois Professional Development System  
**PDAC Higher Education Committee Minutes**  
**October 18, 2019**

Anni Reinking	Julie Lindstrom	Melissa Szymczak
Beth Knight	Kate Connor	Mikki Sherwood
Cathy Main	Kathy Sheridan	Pat Chamberlain
Cindy Rice	Larissa Mulholland	Pat Steinhaus
Joni Scritchlow	Leslie Layman	Rebecca Pruitt
Joyce Weiner	Melissa Batchelor	Teresa Gammons
		Tom Pavkov

**Welcome and Introductions** – Cathy Main, Kate Connor, and Rebecca Pruitt - Tri-chairs

- Participants were welcomed to the telenet.

**Approval of January Meeting Minutes**

- June 21, 2019 (Attached #1)
  - Joyce Weiner moved to accept the minutes.
  - Cathy Main seconded the motion.

**Gateways Higher Education Forum**

- The Forum will be held on April 16 and April 17, 2019 at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington.
- Request for Proposals have been sent to faculty. Proposals are due back on December 4, 2019.
- Encouraged topics include:
  - State and federal system perspectives
  - Diversity infusion
  - Engaging with and building critical relationships with families, including high priority populations
  - Utilizing technology to maximize coursework content and increase accessibility
- If you are interested in being a peer reviewer please contact Teresa Gammons at [tgammons@inccrra.org](mailto:tgammons@inccrra.org)

**Higher Education Shared Information**

- Melissa Batchelor presented on behalf of ACCESS. Melissa is the ACCESS co-chair as Melissa Johnson will roll-off as chair. ACCESS is focusing on the teacher shortage in Illinois and its impact. Melissa has joined a Facebook group that is tracking the impact of teacher shortages and center closings, especially in southern Illinois.
- Cathy Main reminded the attendees of the recent change to the Gateways Scholarship Program. Individuals working at a Bronze, Silver or Gold Circle of Quality ExceleRate child care centers or family child care/group homes now can access the Gateways Scholarship Program after 90 days rather than a year. In addition, the Gateways Great START program increased the maximum wage to \$18 per hour. The INCCRRA marketing department sent to Illinois colleges and universities a poster that explains how to apply for the Gateways Scholarship.
- Anni Reinking presented on behalf of ILAECTE. Topics from the last ILAECTE meeting included: workforce compensation, Part 25, drafted a request to ISBE to provide ILAECTE information regarding the content test, and the workforce shortage impacting the state. Cathy and Anni also

let those on the call know that ILAECTE is not exclusive to four-year faculty, two-year faculty are encouraged to participate.

### **Opportunities for Higher Education Institutions in State and Federal Projects**

- The city of Chicago and the Department of Family and Support Services are using funds for teachers to get their Infant Toddler Credential Level 5 or Family Specialist Credential Level 5.
  - Not enough higher education institutions offer coursework that leads to these Level 5 credentials, especially the Family Specialist Credential.
- Through the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Age 5 (PDG B5) the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development Office is currently capturing information around innovative early childhood college cohorts for a report to be completed by the end of December. If your institution participated in an infant toddler cohort please contact Joni Scritchlow. Findings from this report will likely inform the potential to request money in Illinois for future PDG grant applications and cohorts.
- There is a current time sensitive opportunity for students who meet specific requirements to apply for funding in 2019 if you have attended or are currently attend an accredited Illinois college or university, students can apply for \$1,800 to repay existing debt or to be reimbursed for payments made. Please call Annie Connell at INCCRRA for details.
- A very limited amount of money from the PDG B5 grant is allowing credential fees for ECE/ITC/IDC to be waived for SDA 15 and 16. This offer is only until the end of October.

### **Coursework Regarding Health Safety Wellness Proposal**

- Faculty would like to have IDHS accept college coursework for the Gateways ECE Level 1.
- Entitle the competencies that higher education institutions can teach.
  - Higher Education Institutions are teaching the Level 2 competencies and they are stacked on the Level 1. Institutions should be able to give entitlement to Level 1 in a credit bearing way.
  - There should be a way for individuals to earn a credit bearing Level 1, so people can understand a path that is real credit the whole way.
  - Keep the existing way to attain a Level 1, but to open a Higher Education pathway.
  - There is no higher education path for the Level 1.
  - Would like to bring this to PDAC as a proposal.
- Illinois Department of Human Services approves the ECE Level 1 through modules and trainings.
- Higher Education Institutions have coursework regarding Health Safety Wellness that could align to the IDHS requirements so that students could use these courses (college credit bearing) instead of training only as a start on their credential pathway.
- The financial implications of using college course work for Level 1 includes:
  - The student will need to send their official transcript to Gateways incurring the cost of the transcript
  - Pay the application fee
  - Data tracking will need to be developed along with tracking for the PDR.
- Training for Level 1 includes: the Basic which is 90 minutes online, and 4 hours face-to-face and the 16 modules which averages around 35-45 hours.
- The Level 1 competencies stack into the Level 2 competencies, but higher education cannot go to a center and say we can get your folks a Level 1 competency credential. Would like to use the Level 1 as a way to met CCAP guidelines.
  - Are any entities/programs requiring the ECE level 1?

- Faculty would like to use Higher Education as another way to get the Level 1 other than online or face to face training. It could be as a third option.
- This proposal does not include the Level 1 used in high schools.
- This discussion is regarding Tier One of Level 1. How do we get those ten topics acknowledged and tracked.
- The recommendation could include that Tier One training is equivalent to a college level health safety and nutrition course in early childhood. Recommending that we explore a Level 1 credential to align with the stackability of Level 2.
- The systems will need to be built in order to facilitate this recommendation. The financial implications must be built into the recommendation including but not limited to:
  - student transcripts
  - application fees
  - data tracking
  - Issue with using just the term health safety and nutrition as not all schools have a stand alone course using those words, but rather embedded the information in multiple courses, more community colleges have this class term than four-year institution).
- PDAC Higher Education Tri-Chairs will produce a financial impact model.
- Kate proposes the following recommendation:
  - Entitlement for ECE Level 1 through college coursework.
  - A credit bearing Level 1 path through entitlement of college coursework.
  - Cathy put forward the concept of voting for the HE tri-chairs to create two recommendations and add in the rationale, then share with the committee for feedback.
    - Those in the room and on the phone are in favor of supporting moving entitlement for a Level 1 through college coursework with a recommendation.
- It was suggested to partner with QC committee, if they support it adds strength to the recommendation regarding the Level 1.
- The ECE Level 1 is awarded through completion of 48 clock hours of training or 16 modules and meets the HGD1, HSW1, IRE1, IRE2, and FCR1 competencies.

## Adjourn

