



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

Illinois Professional Development System

PDAC Telenet Minutes

April 24, 2020

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PDAC Welcome

Stephanie Bernoteit, Marsha Hawley and Johnna Darragh Ernst welcomed members to our first PDAC zoom meeting.

Review and Approval of Minutes

- January 31, 2020 (Attachment A)
 - Marie Donovan moved to accept the minutes.
 - Cerathel Burnett seconded the motion.

Key Information from State Agency Partners

Illinois Board of Higher Education

- IBHE has been working with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Illinois Department of Financial Regulations on offering options for individuals who are in post-secondary education right now and getting ready to graduate with the need to be licensed.
- IBHE along with the Governor's Office will soon issue an Executive Order that will give options for licensure in the education field.
- IBHE, the Governor's Office, ISBE, and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) have developed a state-wide mobile hot spot map which shows access sites for broadband and Wi-Fi. The map is updated daily.

- IBHE, the Governor's Office and ICCB will launch a student emergency fund. Funds will be provided to students for their emergency living needs. Money will be distributed to public colleges/universities to distribute these resources to any student in need.
- On May 1st, IBHE will be issuing a call for proposals for accredited higher education institutions that hold Gateways to Opportunity Credential entitlement in the state of Illinois. Higher education institutions can apply for Federal PDG-B5 money to offer cohort programs to take working professionals in the ECE field to and through the competition of a credential or a degree. These proposals are due back to ISBE on June 8th.

Illinois Head Start Association

- Head Start continues to support and serve families even though centers are closed.
- The Office of Head Start released a notice regarding support of emergency child-care during COVID-19 and how Head Start and Early Head Start can help communities.
 - Top Three principles
 - Take care of our families
 - Take care of our staff
 - Support our communities
- Head Start and Early Head Start received \$750 million dollars in funding from the CARES Act. \$500 million is set aside for a potential summer program/bridge learning program. \$250 million is dedicated to one-time activities in response to COVID 19 including mental health training and professional development.
- There is a need for social and emotional supports for families, children and staff.

Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

- Dr. Jor'dan was unable to attend the zoom meeting but provided slides to be shared during the zoom meeting. (Attachment B)

Illinois Department of Human Services

- Essential workers who cannot work remotely and require child care will be eligible without consideration of income and be assessed a one dollar co-payment. Essential workers are those who work in health care, human services, corrections, law enforcement, fire department and infrastructure. In order to expedite payments an application has been created, this is located at www.dhs.state.il.us website.
- IDHS has enhanced the rate of reimbursement for providers who are taking care of children of essential workers.

Illinois State Board of Education

- ISBE has created on their website a coronavirus page as a go-to source for information and guidance related to school closings and remote learning. <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/covid19.aspx>
- The site has remote learning recommendations, guidance, and webinars for administrators.
- ISBE has set up an email system to coordinate and encourages anyone with questions to contact them at covid19@isbe.net
- Remote learning is not home schooling, the ISBE guidance document emphasizes that parents are not to be sitting down with a set of schedule activities beyond developmentally appropriate practices.
- Professional Development providers are providing new content and professional learning opportunities.

Highlights from the Gateways Higher Education Forum

- The Gateways to Opportunity Higher Education Forum was held as a webinar due to COVID19 on April 16th and 17th. More than 90 people joined us each day.
- The Powerpoint presentations and recording of the Forum webinars are available on the Gateways website at: <https://www.ilgateways.com/professional-development/higher-education-programs/ece-toolbox?highlight=WyJlY2UiLCJ0b29sYm94IiwZWNlIHRvb2xib3giXQ==>
- A state panel was offered with ISBE, GOECD, IBHE, and ICCB. Presenters included: Dr. Jason Helfer, Dr. Jamilah R. Jor'dan, Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit, Dr. Eric Lichtenberger and Dr. Marcus Brown. Joni Scritchlow presented information to the attendees regarding Gateways to Opportunity and the Credential program.
- On Friday our keynote presenter was Dr. Theresa Hawley, First Assistant Deputy Governor, Education of the Office of the Governor JB Pritzker. Her presentation was entitled "The Best State to Raise Young Children".

Attendees were broken into small groups to discuss opportunities and challenges regarding professional development and COVID19.

- What Strategies have been successful to ECE in navigating the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What collaborations have offered opportunities for professional development in Illinois in the current environment? How can PDAC ensure we support/promote/expand and improve upon these promising practices?
- What opportunities and innovations have come about with expanded use of technology in higher education platforms and professional development? What has been the student/practitioner response? What can we learn moving forward?

Report-Outs from Small Groups

- Group 1
 - Spent time talking about the importance of mental health for students, families, and faculty.
 - Recognize that technology is a challenge for some (don't have a good data plan, no accesses).
 - Higher Education had to adapt quickly from the classroom setting to virtual setting.
 - CCR&Rs are doing weekly check-ins that have been successful and appreciated in order to share strategies and successes.
- Group 2
 - Strategies discussed included how people are staying in touch with parents of the children they were supporting. This includes use of the phone, google classroom, and texting etc.
 - Good to have The Center and StarNet as resources.
- Group 3
 - Discussion on mental health issues.
 - Students are having to make the change to virtual learning. Higher education institutions are putting together webinars for students.
 - Discussion included equity issues across all settings.

- Parents are experiencing stress in order to balance working from home with children at home or working at their office site and who can take care of the children.
- Group 4
 - Teachers and professionals have resources and opportunities to take advantage of such as the i-learning website.
 - Good leadership is needed, need to filter the opportunities and make them available.
 - The need for self-care for professionals that are providing emergency care.
- Group 5
 - Discussion around the opportunities and innovations that have come about in technology and their platforms.
 - Collaboration was very important to help think about what is needed.
 - Challenges in how to give credit, such as practicums.
 - Important to share resources.
- Group 6
 - GOECD built a webpage with information that was well organized regarding the hotline and stipends.
 - The built-in relationships and networking of the CCR&Rs has been a great benefit to the field.
 - Communication is key – use of the telephone and newsletters have become important again.
- Group 7
 - Opportunities for team building has grown and helped people grow closer.
 - It is a struggle to have virtual resources for infant and toddlers.
 - This has been an opportunity to talk about family engagement.
 - Zoom can be used for transfer of practice after trainings.

Adjourn

