



**Professional Development Advisory Council
September 1, 2021
Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Barb Christmas	Joleen Patton	Miranda Lin
Barbara Volpe	Joni Scritchlow	Nichole Miller
Beth Knight	Julia Auch	Patricia Steinhaus
Brenda Smith	Julie Lindstrom	Paula Schnicker-Johnson
Carie Bires	Kate Connor	Rebecca Livengood
Carole Franke	Keri Anderson	Rebecca Pruitt
Carolyn Beal	Larissa Mulholland	Shanna Edison
Catherine M Main	Lauri Morrison-Frichtl	Sharyl Robin
Cerathel Burgess-Burnett	Laurie Rhodes	Shauna Ejeh
Christy Allen	Leslie Layman	Sherial McKinney
Cindy Berrey	Lori Orr	Shi-Ruei Fang
Cindy Wall	Lynn Burgett	Sinthu Ramalingam
Connie Shugart	Malia Owens	Stephanie Bernoteit
Courtney Hatcher	Marcus Brown	Stephanie Hellmer
Danyle Watkins	Marcy Mendenhall	Stephanie Herling
Deborah Rogers-Jaye	Marge Holland	Steven Sharp
Diane King	Marie Donovan	Susan Jackson
Elva DeLuna	Marilyn Toliver	Tamara Notter
Emily Dorsey	Marilynn Ward	Tammy King
Heidi Elliott	Marsha Shigeyo Hawley	Tammy Landgraf
Jamie Nichols	Medina Bailey	Teri Meismer
Joan Longtin	Melissa Batchelor	Teri Talan
Joellyn Whitehead	Melissa Johnson	Wendy Uptain
Johnna Darragh	Mikki Sherwood	Trane Brockhouse Trainers, Childcare Connections

Attendees of the PDAC meeting were welcomed by the chairs.

- Barb Volpe read the PDAC Mission, Vision and Values.

Review and Approval of Minutes

- June 2, 2021
 - Tammy Notter moved to approve the minutes.
 - Elva DeLuna seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Changes/Shifts/Transformation in Illinois & Connectors to PDAC

- **Illinois Department of Human Services**
 - Child Care Restoration Grants
 - Expect to send 3,300 checks for Round 2 which covers the months of April, May, and June 2021.

- Round 3 is open for July, August, and September 2021. The deadline for an apply for funding is September 15th. The deadline will not be extended.
 - More than 1,700 programs have been approved for Round 3 funding. Another 1,700 are under review, with 1,900 programs who are eligible, but have not yet opted into the program.
 - Round 4 will open on Monday, October 18th to cover expenses for October, November, and December. Round 4 will close on December 15th.
 - The Child Care Restoration Grants will phase out, and the state is currently working on potential next steps regarding calendar year 2022 and stabilization grants.
 - The Office of Early Childhood within the Illinois Department of Human Services will become the Division of Early Childhood.
 - The PDAC Strategic Plan Phase IX is being reviewed by the department.
- **Changes to the Professional Development Record and Impact for the Workforce**
 - Opportunities for innovation to address challenges include:
 - Competencies earned at multiple institutions of higher education
 - Articulation at course level
 - Access to transcripts
 - No learner “view” of their competencies
 - Pathway progress unclear
 - Student Learning Repository
 - Centralized hub for collection of competencies
 - Competencies stored with metadata which allows for portability
 - Data portal for higher education intuitions to facilitate submission of data to the repository
 - Competencies can be added once they are earned
 - Provides for two-way communication between institutions
 - Utilize an open ecosystem supported through Comprehensive Learner Record, open badges and Competencies and Academic Standards Exchange
 - Gateways Registry
 - Want to create a competencies dashboard that gives people a visual of the competencies they have demonstrated and how they progress on the credential pathway or job qualifications
 - Integration with the Professional Development Record (PDR)
 - The competency dashboard in the Gateways Registry will allow learners and educators to view competencies earned and progress toward credentials and job qualifications
 - Initial work has started within the system, but not ready to launch
- **PDG B-5 Projects**
 - Reminder and request to partner with Gateways to let the field know that both credential and renewal application fees (excludes the SAYD) have been waived through the grant.
 - Prior Learning Assessment
 - Goal is to increase degree access and affordability for the incumbent ECE workforce by crediting their extant knowledge and skills.
 - Use ECE faculty expertise and technology to create prior learning assessment of the Gateways Level 2 competencies.
 - Map the landscape of PLA practices, policies, and rules to examine areas of success, gaps commonalities and inconsistencies.
 - Course modularization and variable credit emerging as potential keys to creating a scalable ECE PLA system.
 - Faculty are developing workplace scenarios for each of the content areas regarding Level 2.

- A statewide showcase will be held at the conclusion of the project to share the results and recommendation of the project.
- **Illinois Board of Higher Education**
 - Public Act 102-0174 states:
 - "...the Illinois higher education system must support our incumbent early childhood workforce through credential and degree attainment..."
 - Enrollment and completion in higher education programs is increasing but is still below 2014.
 - Identified barriers to increasing degree completion:
 - Difficulties in articulating from 2 year to 4-year programs.
 - Courses not consistently offered.
 - Incumbent workforce needs additional supports.
 - Student teaching requirements that don't allow incumbent workforce to stay on the job
 - \$200 million in one-time federal dollars will go to the Illinois Department of Human Services to increase credentials of incumbent early childhood workforce and change how higher education delivers degrees.
 - Nearly 28,000 current teachers and assistant teachers in childcare settings need to upskill.
 - 8,000 need a bachelor's degree.
 - 20,000 need an associate's degree.
 - A statewide consortium of higher education institutions will be created to address the workforce need. All public universities and community colleges with early childhood programs are required to participate. Private institutions will be encouraged to participate.
 - Each member of the consortium will sign-on to a set of agreements designed to ensure smooth, high-quality, seamless pathways for students.
 - Students will be able to take coursework at multiple consortium institutions so that it is available when and where they need it.
 - Students' degrees from community colleges will be transferred in their entirety to a participating four-year institution.
 - During student teaching the cost of attendance covered will increase to replace lost income.
 - Support will also be given to students through a combination MAP grants, Pell and a new scholarship program to cover the cost of tuition, fees, transportation and living expenses.
 - The scholarship application for students should be available later this fall. This scholarship will be for the full school year.
 - Navigators will be placed with CCR&Rs and will provide personalized assistance to students regarding application and financial aid issues.

Those in attendance were placed in breakout rooms to discuss how the initiatives could impact professional development and the work of PDAC. Responses included:

- Prioritize what we can do in the short time frame, focus on smooth transition, build relationships, and how can we understand our important roles
- Need to get word out now to directors, prospective students to give time to prepare.
- Talked about the importance of wages in attracting people and keeping people in the field.

Announcements

- PDAC membership forms along with a new PDAC membership survey will be sent out to PDAC members asking them to send back their forms and respond to the survey before October 22, 2021.
- The PDAC Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. The Annual Meeting will be held by zoom, with invites being sent out in mid-September.

Adjourn

