

**Professional Development Advisory Council
Minutes for September 7, 2022 Meeting**

Anne Pradzinski	Julie Lindstrom	Patricia Steinhaus
Barb Christmas	Larissa Mulholland	Rebecca Livengood
Bela Mote	Lauri Morrison-Frichtl	Rebecca Pruitt
Beth Knight	Laurie Rhodes	Ruth Kimble
Cerathel Burgess-Burnett	Leslie Layman	Sandy Young
Christie Easley	Lynn Burgett	Sara Beach
Connie Shugart	Marcus Brown	Shanna Edison
Deborah Rogers-Jaye	Marie Donovan	Sharyl Robin
Elva DeLuna	Marilyn Toliver	Shauna Ejeh
Emily Dorsey	Marsha Shigeyo Hawley	Sinthu Ramalingam
Gail Nelson	Medina Bailey	Stephanie Bernoteit
Heidi Elliott	Mercedes Mondragon	Stephanie Hellmer
Jamie Nichols	Mikki Sherwood	Steven Sharp
Joan Longtin	Miranda Lin	Sue Jackson
Johnna Darragh Ernst	Norma Moore	Susan Murphy
Joni Scritchlow	Olga Torres	Tamara Notter
Julia Auch	Pam Womack	Tammy King
		Tina Wiegel

Attendees were welcomed to the meeting

Review and Approval of the Minutes (Attachment A)

- June 1, 2022
 - Bela Mote moved to approve.
 - Laurie Rhodes seconded the motion.
 - Minutes were approved.

Recommendations from the Workforce Development and Pathways Committee (Attachment B and C)

- **RECOMMENDATION:** The Workforce Development and Pathways committee recommends approval of a standardized definition of Professional Development for the ECE field in Illinois. *Professional development includes the continuum of professional preparation and ongoing professional development. It includes training, higher education, and technical assistance. It can take place in person or e-learning and take the form of university/college credit-bearing coursework, preservice and in-service training sessions, observation with feedback and reflection with a colleague or supervisor; peer learning communities; and mentoring, coaching, and other forms of job-related technical assistance. High-quality professional development includes an opportunity for the learner to participate in planning their professional development, as well as access credit-bearing course work,*

valued credentials, and instructors with appropriate knowledge, skills, and experience in early childhood education and principles of adult learning.

- **RATIONALE including financial impact/monetary breakdown this recommendation would have if applicable):** This recommendation is in response to the PDAC Strategic Plan (Phase IX) goal to define professional development for all early childhood practitioners regardless of program type. Research in order to inform the PDAC definition was collected from a variety of national entities (e.g., Build it Better – NAEYC and Learning Forward – Standards for Professional Learning) regarding professional development and job-embedded professional development definitions. The definition will provide consistency for the ECE workforce.
 - **The recommendation was approved.**

- **RECOMMENDATION:** The Workforce Development and Pathways committee recommends approval of a standardized definition of Job-embedded professional development (JEPD) for the ECE field in Illinois. *Job-embedded professional development (JEPD) refers to the continuum of learning that is grounded in day-to-day practice. It is integrated into the work and includes assessing and finding solutions for authentic and immediate problems of practice as part of a cycle of continuous improvement. JEPD is a shared, ongoing process that is locally rooted and makes a direct connection between learning and application in daily practice, thereby requiring active involvement in collaborative, inquiry-based work. High-quality JEPD is aligned with best practice standards and relevant federal, state and local standards for early learning and any related agency, program, center, or school related goals.*

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Gateways to Opportunity Credentials and Curriculum Presentation

- ECE Credential Competency-Based Education Curriculum
 - Faculty at 39 higher education institutions have requested access to the modules.
 - Gateways ECE Credential Level 2 curriculum models have been translated into Spanish. Higher education institutions that are piloting include:
 - Western Illinois University
 - College of Lake County
 - National Louis University

- Gateways to Opportunity ECE Credential Level 5 to Professional Educator License (PEL) Bridge
 - Faculty from 19 higher education institutions with an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approved PEL program have accessed the bridge curriculum.
 - Per Emily Fox, Director of Educator Effectiveness, ISBE will grant institutions permission to make a program change under existing PEL programs to utilize the bridge this fall/starting immediately.
 - If you would like more information, please feel free to outreach to Stephanie Hellmer shellmer@inccrra.org about access to the bridge curriculum.

- Gateways to Opportunity Infant Toddler Credential Competency-Based Education Curriculum Pilot
 - Eight higher education institutions are piloting with hundreds of students experiencing the various modules.

- Gateways Illinois Director Credential Competency-Based Curriculum Education
 - Faculty at the following institutions are creating competency-based curriculum for the Gateways Illinois Director Credential:
 - Northern Illinois University
 - National Louis University
 - Oakton Community College
 - College of Lake County
- Assessment of Prior Learning Project
 - Faculty from 23 higher education institutions designed scenarios using Mursion software using the Gateways ECE Level 2.
 - The goal of the project is to offer an opportunity for the incumbent workforce to demonstrate ECE Credential Level 2 competencies thereby gaining college credit via Prior Learning Assessment.
 - Piloting institutions include: Eastern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, Chicago State University, Governors State University, National Louis University, Heartland Community College, McHenry College, Kishwaukee College and Lake Land College.
- Gateways to Opportunity Credentials
 - More than 15,000 Gateways Credential applications have been received in FY2022.

State Agency Reports

- Illinois Board of Higher Education
 - Illinois Student Debt Assistance Act: Effective immediately, institutions of higher education (public and private) may not withhold transcripts from individuals who have attended that institution if they owe the institution money.
 - Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) was able to provide more than 600 individuals who were able to access scholarship funds. Since June of 2022 more than 1,300 scholarship applications have been received for this fall semester.
 - Currently 32 navigators have been hired across the state to assist the workforce in connecting with higher education institutions.
 - Mentors are being hired at higher education institutions to help connect the workforce to the ECE programs at higher education institutions.
 - Marsha Hawley has joined the Illinois Board of Higher Education working with the Navigators.
- Illinois Head Start Association
 - Currently monitoring the FY23 Federal budget. A budget could be introduced after the November election.
 - As we head into the school year, many Head Start programs are experiencing the challenge of not being about to find staff in order to keep rooms open.
 - The expectation is to have full enrollment from the Office of Head Start.
- Illinois Community College Board
 - Have seen more than 1,500 scholarship applications for the fall semester, up slightly from what Stephanie Bernoteit had mentioned in her report earlier in the meeting.
 - Currently in the reporting phase of the Consortium but will continue to gather information to add to reports and tell the story of the workforce.
 - The next Consortium meeting is October 11, 2022.
 - ICCB continues to support the Mursion learning project in collaboration with the McCormick Foundation and INCCRRA through the next year and then ICCB will make assessments around the longevity of the project.
 - TransferBOOST (Bachelor's Opportunity Options that are Straightforward and Transparent) is an initiative developed to provide students affordable, quality, well-supported two- to four-year pathways. Both the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board and engaged in the project.

- Illinois State Board of Education
- A new learning series sponsored by Early Choices, Early Childhood Professional Learning, and StarNET is being offered. It is a four-part web-based series on developing appropriate practices for early learners. The series will begin on October 12th.
- Additional information can be found at:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u2HPJ77Rcvv9M4NOJGZRy7xUF8cnAzTP/view>

Strategic Plan

- We are starting the second year of a three-year plan.
- PDAC committees were asked to review their PDAC Strategic Plans and make sure they are incorporating the goals and objectives into the agendas and work as we begin the new fiscal year.

New ECEC Enrollment Campaign

- The video from the new ECEC Enrollment Campaign “I Got Love/¡Siento Amor!” was shared
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xD9vkU8yMgl>.

Adjourn





GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY® Illinois Professional Development System

Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC)

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL

DATE: June 15, 2022

COMMITTEE MAKING RECOMMENDATION: Workforce Development and Pathways Committee

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DISPOSITION:

WDP Committee

Approved: Date: 7/26/22
Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:

PDAC Steering Committee

Approved: Date: 8.3.22
Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:

PDAC Steering

Approved: Date:
Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:

IDHS, Office of Early Childhood





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