

Professional Development Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2023

Barbara Volpe	Julie Lindstrom	Nichole Miller
Beth Knight	Jamie Nichols	Pam Womack
Brooke Walker	Jamie Nichols	Patricia Steinhaus
Camille Gant	Joan Longtin	Paula Schnicker-Johnson
Carole Franke	Joni Scritchlow	Rebecca Pruitt
Cerathel Burgess-Burnett	Kate Connor	Ruth Kimble
Christie Easley	Kimberlee Hendricks	Sara Beach
Denise Monnier	Larissa Mulholland	Shauna Ejeh
Marie Donovan	Laurie Rhodes	Sinthu Ramalingam
Emily Dorsey	Lisa Downey	Stephanie Bernoteit
Emma Vibber	Marcus Brown	Stephanie Hellmer
Gail Nelson	Marilyn Toliver	Susan Murphy
Hollie Hoole	Mercedes Mondragon	Wendy Connell

Welcome and Review of Minutes –Stephanie Bernoteit and Shauna Ejeh

- March 1, 2023
 - Barb Volpe moved to approve of the minutes.
 - Marie Donovan seconded the motion to approve the minutes.
 - Minutes approved.

Recommendation: Illinois State Board of Education ESL/Bilingual Endorsement – Qualification and Credentials Committee

- **RECOMMENDATION:** Include “Illinois State Board of Education ESL and/or Bilingual Endorsement meets these requirements” across the Content Specific Education Competencies to Support Dual Language Learners and Work and Practical Experience for the Gateways ESL & Bilingual Credential Level 4.
- **RATIONALE:** Applicants with an ESL and/or Bilingual Endorsement through the Illinois State Board of Education demonstrate that all ESL & Bilingual Credential competencies have been met. This is comparable to the Professional Educator License with an endorsement in Early Childhood Education covering the requirements for the ECE Credential Level 5, the Bachelor or master’s in social work covering the requirements for the Family Specialist Credential Level 5, and the Professional Educator License with an endorsement in Elementary Education covering the requirements for the School-Age and Youth Development Credential Level 5.
 - The recommendation was approved.

Smart Start Illinois – Hollie Hoole

- Lori Harrison will be representing the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) as it relates to Smart Start and child care.

- Strengthen & Grow Child Care will be transitioning to the Smart Start Transition Grants.
- ExceleRate Child Care Center pilot will transition into the Quality Support Program/Apprenticeship Program.
- A focus is to minimize child care deserts and raise child care wages to address the teacher shortage.
- Workforce compensation contracts will create financial reliability that can be leveraged to increase access to higher wages and quality child care programs by:
 - Providing base funding that remains consistent
 - Calculating base funding using a model that assumes wages at \$17 - \$19 hr.
 - Paying in advance not in arrears
- Contracts
 - In FY25-27 continued investment increases will result in an overall 110% increase in children served as well as future funding add-ons and consolidations including Quality Support Add-Ons and layered funding contracts.
- Additional Smart Start Child Care Investments
 - Initial Activity Search (IAS): Extending Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) eligibility seekers through FY24.
 - Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program: Launching new employer level support to wages and provide structured on the job training and mentorships for staff going to school.
 - Child Care Management System Improvement Project: Improvements to the payment system.
 - Gateways to Opportunity & Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE): Funding to maintain scholarships.
 - Apprenticeship Program: Launching new employer level support to increase wages and provide structured on the job training and mentorships.

Reports

Illinois Department of Human Services – Hollie Hoole

- Division of Early Childhood (DEC) staffing updates
 - Michelle Wood is the Bureau Chief of Quality Initiatives
 - Bethany Patten is the Division Director
 - Lesley Schwartz is the Associate Director of Early Childhood Development, she oversees Home Visiting and Early Intervention
 - Trish Rooney is the Associate Director Child Care, she oversees Quality Initiatives, Subsidy Management and Collaboration and Partnerships
 - Sinthu Ramalingam is the Senior Policy Advisor
 - Hollie is under the Program Development and Quality Improvement Unit under Quality Initiatives
- The Annual Child Care Report has been completed.
 - The report includes information on the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), including responses to the COVID 19 pandemic within CCAP and Quality Improvements programs.
 - The 2022 report includes information for the Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022).

- Training highlights:
 - CCR&R Training offered:
 - Number of training participants: FY22: 17,269 – FY21: 14,436 – FY20: 17,577
 - Online Training
 - Number of online training participants FY22: 209,721 - FY21: 172,771 - FY20: 220,524
 - ExceleRate Illinois Training offered:
 - Number of participants: FY22: 1,370 – FY21: 1,017 – FY20: 2,513

Illinois Board of Higher Education – Stephanie Bernoteit

- Scholarships for the previous academic year closed on May 15, 2023. IBHE is partnering with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to get final numbers in terms of overall number of applicants. As of the last count, 1,800 recipients with \$22 million dollars given out.
- The scholarship for this coming academic year opened on May 31, 2023.

Illinois Community College Board – Marcus Brown

- Will be adding a Senior Director of Early Childhood and Educational Pathways at ICCB.
- There will be a 7% increase in higher education funding. \$100 million dollars was added to the Monetary Awards Program (MAP) program to help support students. As a result most low income students will be able to attend community college for free.
- Continued focus and initiatives regarding dual credit efforts.
- Senate Bill 2288 will help support transfer work. The bill calls for an education panel in addition to the early childhood panel at Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI).

Announcements

- Reminder to mark your calendars with upcoming PDAC meeting dates. Meeting notices will be sent to calendars shortly.
- Please return your PDAC membership forms once they are sent out. This year we are asking for some demographic information as we do want to make sure that PDAC has diverse representation on the council.

Adjourn

