

Professional Development Advisory Council
November 1, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Barb Christmas	Johnna Darragh Ernst	Pam Womack
Barb Volpe	Joni Scritchlow	Paula Schnicker Johnson
Beth Knight	Julia Auch	Rebecca Livengood
Cindy Berrey	Julie Lindstrom	Ruth Kimble
Connie Shugart	Kimberlee Hendricks	Sara Mixer
Danen Bush	Lauri Morrison Frichtl	Stephanie Hellmer
Debbie Rogers Jaye	Laurie Rhodes	Steven Sharp
Denise Monnier	Leslie Layman	Stormy Udell
Elva DeLuna	Lisa Downey	Sue Murphy
Emily Dorsey	Lynn Burgett	Tammy King
Gail Nelson	Malia Owens	Tammy Notter
Gwydolyn Moss	Marcus Brown	Thomas Pavkov
Heidi Elliott	Marie Donovan	Tiffany Smith
Hollie Hoole	Mellissa Ferguson	Tina Weigel
Jamie Nichols	Mikki Sherwood	Wendy Connell
Joan Longtin	Miranda Lin	

Welcome – Joni Scritchlow

- Joni Scritchlow welcomed members to the meeting.
- Joni announced that Stephanie Bernoteit has retired from the Illinois Board of Higher Education and has stepped down as a Tri-Chair of PDAC.
- Joni announced that she will be retiring from INCCRRA at the end of December 2023.

State Agency Reports

- Illinois Department of Human Services – Hollie Hoole
 - Hollie introduced Tiffany Smith as the new Child Care Resource & Referral Coordinator at the Division of Early Childhood.
 - Child care monitoring visits are currently underway.
 - During the recent Child Care Advisory Council meeting Code for America gave a presentation on the ongoing work with Illinois to build an online application experience for the Child Care Assistance Program. It will be a mobile friendly platform for online applications. Expected to launch the pilot in 2025.
 - Smart Start Illinois Transition Grants for Round 1:
 - 1,365 licensed centers were found eligible for transition grants.
 - 1,960 licensed Family child care homes were eligible for the transition grants.
 - 406 licensed family group homes were found eligible.

- Total approved funds for Round 1: \$58,767,562.40
- Round 2 closes on November 3rd.
- Illinois Community College Board – Marcus Brown
 - The Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Consortium meeting was held last week at Northern Illinois University with more than 150 attendees. The Advisory Council meeting will be held on November 3rd.
 - Dr. Adrian Pickett has been named the new Senior Director for Early Childhood Education and Teacher Education Pathways.
 - In 2019 almost 4,800 students were enrolled in early childhood education related programs, in fall 2022 close to 5,900 students were in enrolled early childhood education programs.
 - Almost half of these students are incumbent workers.
 - This increase in students shows a 30% growth in Latino student enrollment, a 31% growth in African American student enrollment, and a 16% growth in white student enrollment.
 - Growth is shown at both the community colleges and four-year institutions as well as public and private institutions.
 - Update on Scholarship:
 - First year 400 students and \$5.7 million in scholarships awarded.
 - Second year 2,100 students and \$30 million in scholarships awarded.
 - Current year (launched May 2023) 4,800 applicants with 3,800 students pre-qualified. \$20 million has been paid out so far this year.
 - The link for the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity first annual report was shared. A new report will be shared in spring 2024.
https://www.ecace.org/assets/documents/2023/ECACE_First_Annual_Report_091423.pdf
- Illinois Head Start – Lauri Morrison Frichtl
 - Focus on U.S. Congress regarding funding for Head Start.
 - Enrollment continues to have challenges due to workforce issues.
 - Potential revising of the Head Start Performance Standards regarding the workforce and staffing pieces of the standards.

Strategic Plan X – Next Steps

- PDAC Steering Committee met in September 2023 to draft the high-level overall direction and outline of goals and objectives for the Strategic Plan X.
- The PDAC Strategic Plan X will begin July 1, 2024, and end June 30, 2027.
- PDAC committee chairs are sharing these goals and objectives with their committee members who will then review, revise, and add additional goals/objectives if needed.
- The expectation is that by April 2024 the goals/objectives will be ready for committee approval. The committee goals/objectives will be presented at the May Steering meeting for a vote and move to the full PDAC in June for a final vote. The plan will be shared with IDHS.

Unified Early Childhood State Agency – Governor Pritzker’s Announcement

- Governor Pritzker signed an executive order to propose a unified early childhood state agency.
- This continues his work to make Illinois the best state for families to raise young children.

- Proposed to create a new state agency to house all early childhood programs and funding.
 - The goal is to streamline services and funding mechanisms.
- Ann Whalen will serve as the Early Childhood Transition Director.
- Bela Mote will chair the external advisory committee.
- A timeline has not been established at this time.
- As PDAC is working on the Strategic Plan X we will continue to monitor the ongoing work of the transition to a unified state agency and adjust where and when needed.

Review of Minutes

- June 7, 2023
 - Laurie Rhodes moved to accept the minutes.
 - Minutes approved.

Recommendation: Prior Learning Assessment Recommendation – Workforce Development and Pathways Committee (attachment 1)

- **RECOMMENDATION:** Systemized approaches to prior learning assessment should be prioritized as an avenue for workforce advancement to support Illinois' highly diverse incumbent workforce. The PDAC Workforce Development and Pathways Committee recommends systemized approaches to PLA including the standardized state system of PLA developed under the direction of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) via PDG-B5 funds be prioritized and expanded for implementation throughout Illinois higher education institutions to provide greater accessibility and a critical pathway for the ECE workforce.
 - **RATIONALE:** National researcher The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) found in their study that adult students who participate in Prior Learning Assessment/Credit for Prior Learning (PLA/CPL) are 17% more likely to complete a degree, compared to those without PLA/CPL and that adults' students save, on average, 9-14 months in earning a degree. PLA boosted completion rates for adult students of color, low-income adult students, and adult students across the academic performance spectrum.
 - *As background: Early childhood faculty at Illinois Higher Education Institutions created a series of PLA scenarios (based on workplace challenges) that were piloted for the ECE Level 2 at higher education institutions in 2022 and 2023 in both English and Spanish for learners. Additional information on Prior Learning Assessment can be found in the Gateways to Opportunity ECE Level 2 Credential Prior Learning Assessment Reports (The CAEL report link is embedded within the report). [INCCRRA Reports and Papers - Gateways to Opportunity \(ilgateways.com\)](https://ilgateways.com)*
 - **Recommendation was approved.**

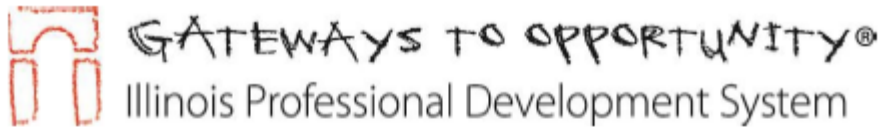
Announcements:

- Welcome to Kimberlee Hendricks and Mellissa Ferguson to PDAC.
- The state is funding a workforce recruitment campaign. INCCRRA and DEC is working with an advertising agency out of Chicago. The goal is to kick-off the campaign in January 2024. This will include streaming platforms, radio, and social media. This will focus on recruitment of new

workforce members for child care assistant teachers, teachers, early intervention and home visiting.

Adjourn





Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC)

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL

DATE: February 28, 2023 revised August 22, 2023

COMMITTEE MAKING RECOMMENDATION: Workforce Development and Pathways

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DISPOSITION:

PDAC Workforce Development and Pathways Committee

Approved: X Date: 2.28.23 X revised 8.22.23

Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:

PDAC Steering Committee

Approved: X Date 10.25.23

Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:

PDAC

Approved: Date:

Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:

IDHS

Approved: Date:

Disapproved: Date:

