

**Professional Development Advisory Council  
February 21, 2024  
Meeting Minutes**

Barb Christmas	Heidi Elliott	Mercedes Mondragon
Bela Mote	Joan Longtin	Miranda Lin
Carisa Hurley Davis	Johnna Darragh Ernst	Pam Womack
Cindy Berrey	Julia Auch	Rebecca Livengood
Connie Shugart	Julie Lindstrom	Ruth Kimble
Debbie Rogers Jaye	Kate Connor	Sandy Young
Denise Monnier	Laurie Rhodes	Sharyl Robin
Emily Dorsey	Lynn Burgett	Shauna Ejeh
Gabriel Holmes	Marcy Mendenhall	Tina Wiegel
Gail Nelson	Mellissa Ferguson	Carole Franke
		*Dan Harris

**Johnna Darragh Ernst and Shauna Ejeh welcomed members to the meeting.**

- Announcement from Dan Harris, Executive Director INCCRRA
  - Marsha Hawley has taken the position of the Senior Director of Innovation and Collaboration at INCCRRA. Marsha will oversee the Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC). A news release will be sent later today to PDAC members announcing this information. Marsha will start on March 4, 2024.
- Carisa Hurley Davis, Director of Early Childhood Development with the Illinois State Board of Education has been named a new PDAC Tri-Chair.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

- November 1, 2023
  - Laurie Rhodes moved to accept the meeting minutes.
  - Bela Mote seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

**Status of the Unified Early Childhood State Agency – Bela Mote (see attachment A)**

- Bela Mote has been appointed as the chair of the Early Childhood Education and Care Transition Advisory Committee.
  - Marcy Mendenhall and Johnna Darragh Ernst also serve on the Transition Advisory Committee.
- A Transition Advisory Committee (TAC) is being formed to serve as an external advisory committee.
- TAC will seek and help the state make meaning of stakeholder input with emphasis on understanding families' goals and needs from a comprehensive ECE system.
- The transition has a multi-year timeline and three phases:
  - Phase 1: Planning to launch (December 2023 - July 2024)
  - Phase 2: Start Up, Redesign, and Preparing to be Fully Operational (July 2024 – July 2026)
  - Phase 3: Operational (new agency operating programs) (July 2026 – December 2026...)

- During the phases, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) continue to administer programs.
- How this will work: early education and care services will move to the new agency, and broader family and school support will remain at home agencies. Programs expected to move include:
  - IDHS: Child Care Assistance Program, Migrant & Seasonal Head Start, Early Intervention, and Home Visiting.
  - ISBE: Early Childhood Block Grant
  - DCFS: Child Care Licensing
- Legislation Overview:
  - Senate and House bills have the exact same language and are sponsored by Representative Mary Beth Canty and Senator Kimberly Lightford.
  - What the initial legislation does:
    - Proposes the establishment of the new single unified Department of Early Childhood on July 1, 2024.
    - Proposes to move early childhood programs and services from existing agencies to the Department of Early Childhood on July 1, 2026.
    - Add Department of Early Childhood to state advisory councils.
    - Will add the new department to applicable Illinois code.
  - What the initial legislation doesn't do:
    - Does not propose any policy changes to existing programs or services.
    - Does not propose any changes to existing program or services.
    - Does not make substantive changes to existing advisory groups or committees.
  - Advisory meetings are open to the public, but the Open Meeting Act does not apply to the meetings.
  - The goal is to produce a report form TAC in two years that lays out recommendations that the new unified agency needs to consider.

### **State Agency Reports**

- Illinois State Board of Education – Carisa Hurley Davis
  - Early Childhood Center for Professional Learning is going to be hosting their Administrators Conference on April 22 and 23, 2024 in Champaign. Focus on ISBE Early Childhood updates and high-quality practices for current and new Pre School For All (PFA) and PFA Expansion programs.
  - Prevention Initiative Forum will have sessions on: Early Intervention, Coordinating Intake and Recruitment, and Community Systems Development.
  - The principal consultants at ISBE who manage the grants for the Early Childhood Block grants are offering office hours if you have questions about your grant. Contact your principal consultant or look for an email from them with details.
  - RSVP for Regional Community Systems Development was released, and it closes on February 29, 2024.
- Illinois Department of Human Services
  - Gabriel Holmes was introduced as a new representative of IDHS to PDAC.

### **Strategic Plan X and Next Steps**

- Committees meet in March and April to make final revisions and vote on their plans.
- Steering meets May 1, 2024, to vote on committee plans, or sooner if committees have completed their work.

- PDAC meets June 5, 2024, to vote on the entire Strategic Plan and then submit the PDAC Strategic Plan X to IDHS before the end of the month.

## Adjourn









## Illinois Early Childhood Education and Care

February 2024



1

### Early Childhood Transition includes planning & building critical infrastructure to serve families with young children

-  Diverse, high-quality, linguistically and culturally appropriate, convenient programs in homes, centers, and schools
-  Strong data systems to inform equitable decision making and funding
-  Family-friendly designs for navigating the systems of support
-  Disaggregated accountability and co-decision making
-  Stable funding for providers
-  Adequate funding that includes workforce compensation

2

## Engagement with families, providers, and other stakeholders is foundational to this process

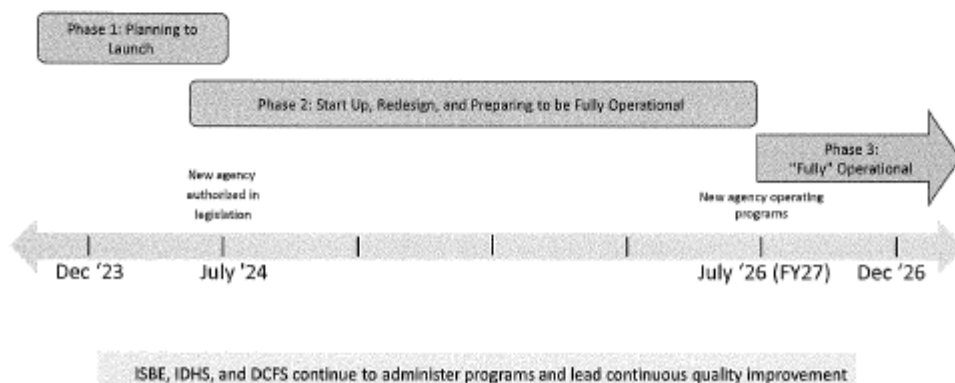


The state is establishing a Transition Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of representatives with diverse perspectives from across the state, to serve as an external advisory committee.

The TAC will seek and help the state make meaning of stakeholder input in preparation for the transition, with a particular emphasis on understanding families' goals and needs from a comprehensive ECE system for Illinois children.

3

## The transition has a multi-year timeline with three phases.

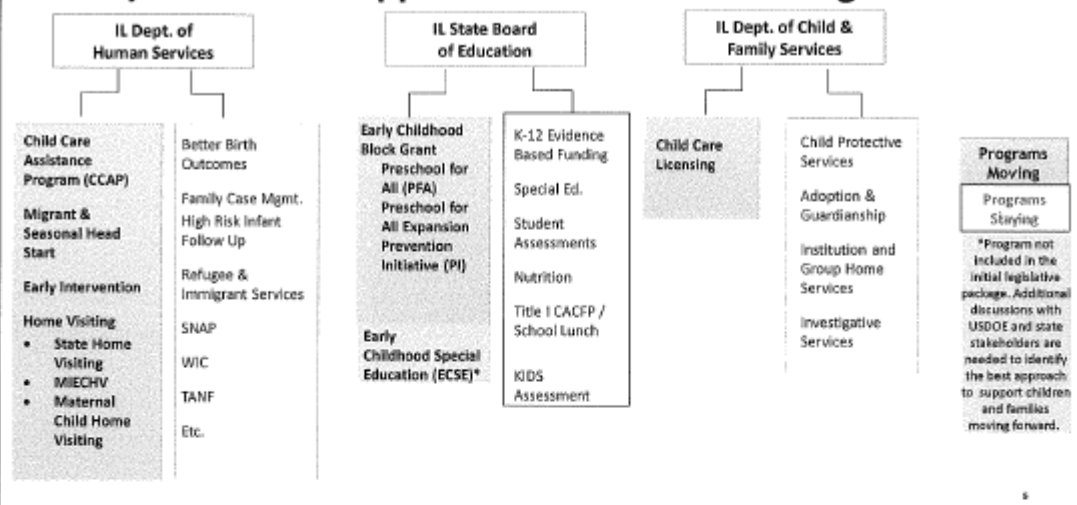


*preliminary and subject to change*

4

4

## Early education and care services will move, and broader family and school support will remain at home agencies



5

## Initial Legislation Overview (Phase 1)

### What the initial legislation does...

- ✓ Does propose the establishment of the new Department of Early Childhood on July 1, 2024
- ✓ Does propose to move early childhood programs and services from legacy agencies to the Department of Early Childhood on July 1, 2026
- ✓ Does propose to add the Department of Early Childhood to applicable State advisory councils
- ✓ Does propose to add the Department of Early Childhood to applicable Illinois code
  - (e.g., Civil Administrative Code of Illinois, etc)

### What the initial legislation doesn't do...

- Does not propose any policy changes to existing programs or services
- Does not propose any implementation changes to existing program or services (other than to move them to the new agency in 2026)
- Does not make any substantive adjustments to advisory groups or committees (e.g., Early Learning Council, Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention)

6