

**Professional Development Advisory Council  
February 5, 2025  
Meeting Minutes**

Aja Owasoyo	Kimberlee Hendricks	Rosario Wortman
Bela Mote	Lauri Morrison Frichtl	Rosie Dorsey
Carole Franke	Leslie Layman	Ruth Kimble
Cerathel Burges Burnett	Lisa Downey	Sandy De Leon
Christi Chadwick	Lori Harrison	Sharyl Robin
Elva DeLuna	Lynn Burgett	Shauna Ejeh
Emily Dorsey	Marcus Brown	Sherial McKinney
Gabriel Holmes	Marcy Mendenhall	Story Udall
Gwyn Moss	Marie Donovan	Susan Murphy
Hollie Hoole	Marilyn Toliver	Tamara Notter
Jacqueline Melendez	Marsha Hawley	Tammy King
Jill Bella	Medina Bailey	Thomas Pavkov
Joellyn Whitehead	Mellissa Ferguson	Tina Wiegel
Johnna Darragh	Mikki Sherwood	Toni Porter
Joyce Gronewold	Miranda Lin	Trinita Winston
Julia Auch	Nicole Miller	Wendy Williams
Julie Lindstrom	Pam Womack	Yina Zhang
Kate Connor	Rebecca Livengood	

**Welcome and Review of Minutes**

- Attendees were welcomed to the meeting.
- Minutes: November 13, 2024
  - Kate Connor moved to accept the meeting minutes.
  - Minutes were approved.
- New Member Orientation
  - An overview of PDAC, including our history, sharing of previous strategic plans, the different committee's responsibilities, role of PDAC in state systems, and how to be more involved will be shared in an orientation meeting scheduled for March 12, 2025.

**ESL & Bilingual Credential Renewal Recommendation, from Qualifications and Credentials Committee (Attachment A)**

- **RECOMMENDATION:** For the renewal of the English as a Second Language & Bilingual Credential is to have training or coursework with topics related to teaching linguistically diverse children with culturally responsive practices.
  - A minimum of 15 clock hours of training (or 1 semester hour of coursework) must be in this topic.

- **RATIONALE:** All Gateways Credentials must be renewed every five years. These renewal requirements provide consistency for the applicant whether seeking renewal of one credential or multiple credentials.
  - Recommendation was approved.

### **Mid-Year Update on Progress of the Strategic Plan**

- **Qualifications and Credentials**
  - Priorities are Goal 2 and Goal 3.
  - QC has spent time reviewing badging in order to gain information on how badging could connect with parts of the Gateways credentialing system.
  - Credentials need to be reviewed every five years. We will soon begin to coordinate ad hoc review committees to begin the review process.
- **Higher Education**
  - Prioritizing Goal 1 and Goal 3.
  - The Committee will review the Gateways Annual Higher Education Update form to determine if additional questions can be added to the form that would help gather needed information (innovations, modalities, and/or program updates).
  - The Committee has an interest in PLA and would like to work with other PDAC Committees to see if there are the common goals in regard to access and funding.
  - The Faculty Forum will be held in April as an in-person meeting. This is an opportunity to on-board new faculty who have not been to an in-person meeting due to COVID and virtual Forum sessions.
- **Workforce Development and Pathways**
  - Priorities are Goal 3 and Goal 2.
  - In previous meetings we reviewed existing communication tools such as infographs. Explored these options in order to evaluate if the information was relevant and what other tools could best be used to message the field.
  - Joellyn Whitehead provided the committee with updated data on the workforce, including education and credential levels. The committee has also looked at data from the Council on Professional Development on who holds a CDA in Illinois.
    - This information will help to inform our work on opportunities to increase access and pathways into the field.
- **Financial Supports**
  - Financial Supports looks forward to working with the Higher Education Committee on the PLA and apprenticeship models.
  - Financial Supports would like to work with Workforce Development and Pathways on identifying barriers and fees regarding the CDA.
  - Financial Supports would like to explore ideas with Qualifications and Credentials regarding pay levers for bilingual staff and pay differential models.

### **State Reports**

- **Illinois Department of Human Services**
  - Migrant Seasonal Head Start has expanded this fiscal year.
    - Beardstown center opened with 70 slots.
    - Rantoul center is scheduled to open with 40 slots.
  - SMART Start Grants: Round 3 closed for opt-ins and new applications at the end of January, with a missing document date of February 14.
  - Child Care Development Fund State Plan: A new feature is adding an appendix which was submitted and approved by the Federal office.

- Head Start: 79 signed MOUs with the WICK office and Home Service Programs so they can work more closely at the local level.
- Annual IHSA conference will be held in Springfield on February 19 – 21, 2025.
- The ExceleRate provider website is now live.
- Illinois Community College Board
  - The next ECACE Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on March 31, 2025.
  - The budget has been submitted; funds have been requested for the ECACE scholarship of approximately \$15 million.
  - A work group made recommendations on how to prioritize completion as one of the levers for scholarships.
- Illinois Board of Higher Education - ECACE
  - Consortium meeting will be held on February 28, 2025.
  - ICCB and IBHE published an ECACE report which contains 2023 academic data.
    - The data showed a 33% increase in enrollment and an increase in incumbent workforce enrollment from 40% to 53%.
  - In regard to race the increase was greatest in African American enrollment.
  - A brief will be posted on the IBHE website regarding scholarship for FY24. \$76 million dollars in scholarship was awarded.
- Illinois Head Start Association
  - During the past week several programs were unable to draw down funds or access funding, at the end of the week they were able to access the program management system and begin to access funds. Still have a handful of programs that are currently still having issues.
  - Blackout in communication, programs unable to communicate with federal offices. Training and technical assistance has stopped providing training and technical assistance on a large scale, still providing one-one assistance where needed.
  - All DEI material was removed from the national Head Start website.
- Transition Advisory Committee
  - Dr. Teresa Ramos is the inaugural secretary of the Illinois Department of Early Childhood.
    - Two listening sessions were held last month.
      - Data from the listening sessions is being compiled.
  - New work groups have been launched.
- Illinois State Board of Education
  - FY 26 ECBG planning: listening sessions were held in November with 185 current and potential grantees attending. During the sessions past priorities were highlighted but also gave the attendees an opportunity to give feedback on planning for FY 26.
  - Ten grant writing workshops were held for potential applicants.
  - FY 26 notice of intent for ECBG remains open.
  - During the December board meeting they approved to award and release FY 26 ECBG for the PFA, PFAE, and PI.
  - The PFA and PFAE administrator forums are March 31 and April 1, 2025, in Champaign.
  - The Prevention Initiative Forum is April 2 -3, 2025.

### **Breakout Session**

- Sharing information about the impact of recent executive orders, sharing information on resources, and sharing what PDAC can do to support our various sectors of service.
  - Higher Education institutions have held meetings and trainings on procedures if immigration enforcement is on campus.
  - Migrant Seasonal Head Start program is concerned about enrollment and are working on how best to support families and connect resources.

- Seeing fear among people in programs, attendance issues, visa issues, future funding concerns, people are finding it hard to concentrate on daily work as they are concerned for people in their programs, especially children.
- If people have call lists or scripts to engage with legislature, please share so others can use these and distribute them.

**Adjourn**

**Next Meeting: June 18, 2025**





Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC)

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL**

**DATE:** November 25, 2024

**COMMITTEE MAKING RECOMMENDATION:** Qualifications and Credentials Ad Hoc

**RECOMMENDATION:** For the renewal of the English as a Second Language & Bilingual Credential is to have training or coursework with topics related to teaching linguistically diverse children with culturally responsive practices. A minimum of 15 clock hours of training (or 1 semester hour of coursework) must be in this topic.

**RATIONALE:** All Gateways Credentials must be renewed every five years. These renewal requirements provide consistency for the applicant whether seeking renewal of one credential or multiple credentials.

**DISPOSITION:**  
PDAC English as a Second Language Bilingual Ad Hoc  
Approved: x Date: 11/15/24  
Disapproved: Date:

**DISPOSITION:**  
PDAC Qualifications and Credentials Committee  
Approved: x Date: 12.2.24  
Disapproved: Date:

**DISPOSITION:**  
PDAC Steering Committee  
Approved: X Date 12.4.24  
Disapproved: Date:

**DISPOSITION:**  
PDAC  
Approved: Date:  
Disapproved: Date:

**DISPOSITION:**  
IDHS  
Approved: Date:  
Disapproved: Date:

