



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

Illinois Professional Development System

PDAC Higher Education Committee Meeting January 19, 2024 Minutes

Emily Dorsey	Leslie Layman
Julia Auch	Marsha Hawley
Julie Lindstrom	Mikki Sherwood
Kate Connor	Tom Pavkov

Kate Connor and Marsha Hawley welcomed members to the PDAC Higher Education Committee Meeting.

Approval of Minutes

- December 8, 2023
 - Mikki Sherwood moved to accept the minutes.
 - Julia Auch seconded the motion.
 - Minutes approved.

The committee looked at overarching themes and ideas to help revise their strategic plan.

- The committee focused on transparency of systems to better help in understanding the functions and recommendations of PDAC.
- Use of social media to better outreach to the field.
- The committee would like to re-engage faculty to boost membership on the committee.
- Discussions regarding participating in a potential upcoming forum.

Committee members revised the existing draft PDAC Higher Education Committee Strategic Plan. The Committee landed on the following draft for the goals and objectives:

Goal 1 Develop systems for identifying and sharing effective practices and innovative models to strengthen and promote field flexibility and scaleup of successful models

Objectives:

1. Identify audiences that benefit from innovative practices (e.g. Program Directors, early childhood educators, P.D. Providers (faculty and trainers), PDAC, etc.)
2. Review and identify successful systems (state or national) for sharing innovations (e.g. peer learning, communities of practice, etc.).
 - a. Determine metrics for “success”.
3. Implement and test systems for sharing best practices/innovations among various audiences.
4. (If funding is available) Participate and help drive the higher education forum conference.
5. Sharing out information related to policy and how things are moving through systems.

Goal 2: Expand (Scale up) identified successful innovative professional development models

Objectives:

1. Evaluate for efficacy using pre-determined metrics.
2. Make recommendations for statewide scale-up of models that meet metrics.
 - a. Provide guidance for best practices.
 - b. Include evaluative component.
3. Partner with Financial Supports Committee for recommendations needed to provide funding to bring to scale identified successful/impactful models.

Goal 3: Evaluate or provide guidance, strategies and recommendations for approaches on how to support new and/or incumbent early childhood professionals in entering or sustaining the field and/or workforce.

Objectives:

1. Connect with Early College
2. Connect with workforce centers – small business
3. Highlight apprenticeship models
4. Partner with Head Start in local communities
5. Prior learning – strategies
6. *Explore - Support* role transitions in the ECE field
7. *Understanding the roles of the incumbent workforce in centers for easier transition*

Goal 4: Utilize and maximize Illinois' well-developed existing competency infra-structure for Gateways Credentials by making it accessible and transparent to the field.

Objective:

1. Informing state agencies/stakeholders about the competencies and credentials infra-structure connections in the early childhood field. (includes, but not limited to)
 - a. IAI Panel
 - b. ISBE IPTS
 - c. NAEYC
 - d. IDHS

These goals and objectives will be shared with Steering at their next meeting. The Higher Education Committee will at the next meeting revise any goals and objectives they feel need additional editing. A final draft will be submitted to Steering for their May 1, 2024, meeting.

Adjourn