



**PDAC Steering Committee Minutes**  
**December 12, 2018**  
**10:00AM – Noon**  
**Telenet**

Bela Mote	Johnna Darragh Ernst	Lynn Burgett
Beth Knight	Joni Scritchlow	Marcy Mendenhall
Cathy Main	Julie Lindstrom	Marsha Hawley
Christi Chadwick	Karen McCarthy	Olga Torres
Dawn Thomas	Kate Connor	Rebecca Livengood
Jamilah R. Jor'dan	Lauri Morrison Frichtl	Rebecca Vonderlack-Navarro
Joellyn Whitehead	Laurie Rhodes	Shauna Ejuh
		Teri Talan

**PDAC Steering Welcome**

- Johnna Darragh Ernst welcomed new members Marcy Mendenhall from SAL Family and Community Services and Rebecca Vonderlack-Navarro from the Latino Policy Forum. Marcy will serve as a tri-chair for Financial Supports and Rebecca is a tri-chair for the Ad Hoc ESL & Bilingual Credential Committee.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

- October 17, 2018 (Attachment 1)
  - Listed under key partners: will make the change to read: Cindy Bardeleben has been named interim Executive Director at Baby TALK.
  - Listed under Illinois Head Start Association: will make the change to read: that Early Head Start Expansion and Early Head Start Child Care Partnership.
  - Minutes amended and approved.

**Debrief from the PDAC Annual Meeting**

- The overarching feeling is that we are at a compensation crisis in Illinois.
- Table discussion included:
  - The need to improve models and supports for existing staff, including discussion around the Relationship Based Professional Development (RBPDP) model.
  - The importance of informing high school counselors about the job opportunities within the ECE field.
  - Rebecca Pruitt's (Lewis University) presentation regarding "radical hospitality" was very impactful.
- A survey will be sent to the PDAC membership to capture action steps surrounding compensation.
- Possibility for next year, rather than the Annual Meeting celebrating highlights and accomplishments, look at it as a forum or work session to address issues. A survey could be sent before the next Annual Meeting to see what topics are most relevant.

**Key Information from State Agency Partners**

- Illinois Head Start Association – Lauri Morrison Frichtl
  - Concern about a potential government shutdown. Head Start has already received funding for fiscal year 2019.

- The 2020 federal budget will be difficult because of the Budget Control Act. Budget caps return in 2020.
- Illinois State Board of Education – Lynn Burgett
  - All grants have received initial approval, with a few still out for corrections to gain final approval.
  - Monitoring of programs has begun. Once programs have been monitored then the programs begin the process of a continuous quality improvement plan, with quarterly grant reporting.
  - The Early Childhood Division is preparing for FY20 budget.
  - Suspension and expulsion rules have been approved by the ISBE Board and have been posted to the website for a 45 day comment period. The Early Childhood Division will be working with the Rules Division so submitted comments can be responded to before the rules are finalized.
  - The KIDS rating system:
    - The Fall ratings entry time period closed on November 19, 2018. Currently waiting for the readiness levels.
    - 751 districts entered ratings on students. More than 120,000 children were rated using KIDS.
    - This year’s focus is assisting districts in collecting additional KIDS measures and collecting multiple times during the year, to allow teachers to have a better understanding and serve the needs of their individual students.
- Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) – Jamilah R. Jor’dan
  - GOECD submitted an application for the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Age 5 (PDG B-5). The overall goal of the grant is to develop a state strategic plan that is informed by a needs assessment. The grant supports five activities:
    - Develop needs assessment
    - Develop a strategic plan
    - Maximize parental choice and knowledge
    - Improve transitions between early childhood and school systems
    - Move forward with quality initiatives that were proposed
      - GOECD applied for \$5.2 million.
      - The planning grant has a twelve month timeline, January 2019 – December 2019. Based on what is completed in 2019 there is potential for applying for funding beyond the first year.
  - The Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee was established by the General Assembly in 2017. Collaboration between the Early Learning Council and P-20 Council to review kindergarten transitions and to provide recommendations to inform the creation of legislation to support transition. In September they submitted their report to the Governor, State Board of Education, and the General Assembly with recommendations as required to support streamline transition. Recommendations focus on three areas:
    - Alignment of teaching and learning
    - Alignment of assessment and data
    - Strengthening cross sector partnerships
  - A cross-walk has been completed of the alignment of Gateways Credentials with Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) licensing requirements. The proposals have been reviewed and approved by DCFS Day Care Licensing Advisory Council. The understanding is that the recommendation is moving forward.
  - At the September Cabinet meeting a new tool, Illinois College to Careers, was released. The tool will enhance the ability to track workforce outcomes of Illinois Higher Education graduates within the state. In a conversation with Nathan Wilson at Illinois Community College Board (ICCB),

outcomes will drill down into programs of study within Early Childhood Education and will isolate earnings up to seven years post-graduation.

- The work of the Governor's Cabinet is in the continuity phase.
- Illinois Department of Human Services – Olga Torres
  - Currently waiting for the new administration to see the direction they want to take for the department.

#### **Information and Impact of the McCormick Competency Grant**

- Received a one year planning grant in 2017. Purpose of the grant was to develop strategic operational plans for how to look at potential realization of the competencies that have been placed within the Gateways Credentials.
- Leadership team has met for the past year of which 50% of PDAC Steering is represented on the Leadership Team. The Team has isolated three areas of work: technology, professional development system, and higher education. The three areas are interrelated.
- Identified two areas that need to happen first.
  - Technology: Need technology supports particularly at INCCRRA within the data tracking system in order to better utilize competencies in awarding Credentials
  - Congruence in assessments of competencies
- Have submitted a grant to the McCormick Foundation to advance the assessment work regarding the competencies. Was to bring together key leaders from faculty and bring together 40 faculty Fellows from 2- and 4- year institutions would look at every Gateways credential, the competencies within those credentials and the related assessments. Will hold a series of statewide meetings in 2019 to share findings.

#### **Power to the Profession – Teri Talan**

- A letter was sent on behalf of the Qualifications and Credentials and PDAC Steering Committees to National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) regarding the decision cycle: competencies associated with the three levels of the early childhood educator.
- Revisions regarding current cycle should come out before the end of the year.

#### **Priorities and Pressing Issues Identified by PDAC Committees**

- Financial Supports
  - The committee is drafting several recommendations. Topics include:
    - Increasing the maximum wage of \$15 per hour for Great START.
    - Opening up eligibility for Great START and Gateways Scholarship to educators at ExceleRate programs.
    - Including additional Credentials into the Great START scale, or possibly paying a higher wage supplement to those working in ExceleRate programs.
    - Committee will hold telenets in January, April, and June of 2019.
  - Plans continue for a revised Spring series of webinars around the Institute Of Medicine – *Transforming the Financing of Early Care and Education* report.
- Qualifications and Credentials
  - The QC committee is working on the strategic plan goal of *Guide the Development and Implementation of a Gateways ESL & Bilingual Credential*:
    - The ESL & Bilingual Credential Ad Hoc has met several times with a face-to-face meeting scheduled for January 10, 2019.
    - Draft Credential competencies have been developed by Pat Chamberlain and Luisiana Melendez.
    - Trainings specific to this Credential could be placed online through the Gateways iLearning site will be reviewed.
  - Teri Talan will continue to inform QC regarding NAEYC Power to the Profession decision cycles with QC monitoring and responding to this information.

- The QC Committee has approved and forwarded to Steering two recommendation regarding SAYD competency framework and on Relationship Based Professional Development (RBPD).
- Information and Trends
  - Committee will meet the first Monday of each month by telenet or webinar.
  - Committee tri-chairs will reach out to Dr. Catherine Corr, University of Illinois, whose research specialty is trauma and young children, to explore possibilities for working together.
  - Researching the possibility of collaborating with other agencies to show the movie Resilience.
  - Want to identify and engage with experts on diversity, trauma, and trauma informed care and the impact around professional development and how this can be address with teachers and pre-service.
  - Will conduct a scan of work at both a state and national level. Will participate in the *Transforming the Financing of Early Care and Education* Report work that Financial Supports is coordinating.
- Workforce Development and Pathways
  - Committee will use the face-to-face meeting on March 20, 2019, to concentrate on Goal 2 of the strategic plan: *Analyze Effectiveness of Various Pathways of the Gateways Credentials*.
  - During the December 6, 2018 webinar the committee revised a draft of a pathways infograph, and Joellyn Whitehead reported on Illinois ECE workforce data.
- Higher Education
  - Committee met by telenet on November 2, 2018.
  - Committee is looking at goals and objectives from the strategic plan.
  - Higher Education faculty and institutions feel there is a crisis in teacher preparation.

## Adjourn

