

**PDAC Steering**  
**March 11, 2020 Minutes**

Bela Mote	Johnna Darragh Ernst	Marcy Mendenhall
Beth Knight	Joni Scritchlow	Marsha Hawley
Christi Chadwick	Joyce Weiner	Rebecca Livengood
Jamilah R. Jor'dan	Julie Lindstrom	Shauna Ejeh
Joellyn Whitehead	Kate Connor	Stephanie Bernoteit
	Laurie Rhodes	Toni Porter

**PDAC Steering Welcome** – Stephanie Bernoteit, Marsha Hawley and Johnna Darragh Ernst

- Laurie Rhodes read the vision, minutes and values.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

- December 11, 2019 minutes were approved by silence. (Attachment A)

**Student Debt Relief**

- The student debt relief is related to the Education Reimbursement Initiative.
- The Preschool Development Grant Education Reimbursement FAQ and the accompanying application were shared with those attending the zoom meeting. (Attachment B)
- The Preschool Development Grant Education Reimbursement Data document includes information regarding recipients in the preschool development grant education reimbursement initiative from October – December 2019.
  - Funding went directly to the student rather than the institution they attended.
  - Information gathered came from information provided during the application process.
- Discussions have been held to not make the application more complicated, but rather to get a sense of how individuals are using the reimbursement.
- Still awaiting federal approval of PDG-B5 budget, the strategic plan, and the needs assessment. The proposed budget is \$56,250.
- Applicants needed to show receipts of payments that were made directly to the higher education institution.
- Please forward to Jamilah Jor'dan any additional potential questions you feel should be included on the application.
- A total of 532 applications were received for assistance.
  - The total ask from the 532 applicants was just under \$2.78 million dollars. Of the 532 applicants there were 176 who owed student loans to out of state schools or owed collections.
  - Total amount from this group (176) was just over \$1.29 million.
  - The maximum payment is \$1,800.
    - During the next round the maximum payment is \$375 per applicant.

**Legislative Proposals**

- HB 5262 Seeks \$15 million to support college completion/emergency grant programs with the appropriation about 31,000 grants could be allocated to low-income students across Illinois' public institutions.
- HB 2556 Amends the Educator Licensure Article of School Code. Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, an educator candidate may not be required to videotape him/herself in a classroom setting.
- HB 4059 Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Removes the requirement that educator licensure candidates pass a teacher performance assessment (EdTPA). Effective July 2020.

- HB4490 Amends the Child Care Act of 1969. Requires specified personnel of a child care facility to be present at the open or close of the facility. Provides that early childhood teachers shall meet specified qualifications. DCFS has created a policy guide and it is now being discussed between the group that brought forward the bill and DCFS. The bill has not been brought forward for a vote, but there is interest.
- HR775 Resolution that urges an increase in investments in early childhood programs including expanding access to high-quality services and to pay wages to attract and retain qualified professionals.
- SB3640 Amends the School Code. Requires the state Board of Education to establish grade level endorsements to be added to the Professional Educator License in the categories of: Elementary (grades K through 9); and Secondary (grades 6- 12). Provides for the adoption of rules regarding requirements for obtaining grade level endorsements. Makes conforming changes. Much opposition to this bill.

### **State Competency Leadership Team**

- Faculty Fellows Report
  - Grant funding for the project was received from the McCormick Foundation. The Faculty Fellows project included 40 Fellows, representing almost half of the entitled ECE higher education institutions in the state.
  - Fellows reviewed all of the Gateways Credentials, the underlying competencies, assessment infrastructure and how to make assessments more robust and cohesive.
  - The work began in March 2019 and concluded in August 2019. Three regional meetings were held in the fall of 2019 to share information. A draft report has been given to the Fellows to review before being shared at the Gateways Higher Education Forum in April. An assessment guide was created and placed on the Gateways website to share with all higher education faculty and trainers.
- Gateways 2020 Higher Education Forum
  - The Forum will be held on April 16 and 17, 2020 at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington. Dr. Albert Wat will facilitate the state panel and keynote presentations include Dr. Barbara Sorells and Dr. Theresa Hawley. Dr. Hawley will close out the Forum with a keynote address on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Additional workshops lead by faculty will be held during the two-day event.
- The Competency Continuum
  - Working on building a bridge regarding trainings and the competencies for trainers and higher education faculty. A series of four regional meetings *The Competency Continuum: Strengthening Professional Development & Higher Education Partnership* will be held this spring. The long-term goal is that both types of learning and environments are recognized and valued.
- Early Educator Investment Collaborative Grant
  - A grant opportunity with a letter of intent was released in December with a series of informational webinars offered in January. Several Illinois higher education institutions were interested in the grant opportunity. In order to strengthen the grant application, Illinois put together a collaborative state system grant to strengthen the Illinois application. It is a two- year grant of \$5 to \$6 million. It is not a planning grant. National Louis University led the LOI submission and would lead the grant submission if asked to submit a full grant.
- **State Agency/ Commission Updates**
  - Illinois Department of Human Services:
    - No report to share.
  - Illinois Board of Higher Education:
    - Ginger Ostro is the new Executive Director.
    - The IBHE Board is working to create a master plan for all post-secondary education in Illinois. To date a lot of cross agency work between the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission has centered around how the master plan process can be fully comprehensive in what it laid out as the future course for higher education in Illinois.
    - The plan will go to the IBHE board next week, and then a series of spring regional meetings will be held to ask stakeholders, including PDAC, key questions regarding higher education.

- Due to COVID-19, institutions of higher learning may need to move to online delivery of services. IBHE will be updating their website with relevant updates.
- Governor Pritzker’s Early Childhood Funding Commission:
  - The commission launched in December 2019. There are four co-chairs of the committee including George Davis, Andy Manar, Barbara Currie, and Jesse Ruiz.
  - The committee has 29 commissioners, they are representative of the early childhood landscape (advocates, funders, state agencies, and community based organizational representatives, etc.). They are tasked with figuring out how to have the biggest impact with limited funds for early childhood services.
  - The commission has a year timeline with a goal of making recommendations to be include in the next state budget. Guiding principles have been developed along with working groups.
    - Groups include: Management and Oversight, in which Shauna Egeh is a participant, Funding Adequacy, Funding Mechanism in which Bela Mote is a participant, and Inclusion.
- Illinois State Board of Education:
  - FY21 RFP for Early Childhood Block grants are due March 23, 2020.
  - ISBE is starting work with the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) on PDG B-5 grant activities. This includes Pyramid Model professional development and practice-based coaching to support PFA and PFA expansion.
  - The Prevention Initiative Forum will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Oakbrook, IL. Registration is open.
  - There are three PDG-B5 Expansion grant evaluation forms of support that are being completed. The main evaluation of the grant itself was done by Northern Illinois University. This evaluation will be post on the GOECD website.
  - The Racial Equity and Pyramid Model pilot reports are close to being completed.
  - ISBE is working on a KIDS timeline and support materials for a KIDS data release to school districts. Districts will receive the reports in late March with the public release in June. Regional superintendents will receive spreadsheets with KIDS state data, regional data and district data. Support materials will also accommodate this data release.
  - ISBE is providing a link on their website to their strategic plan. This plan will be voted on in late March or early April.
- Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development
  - Jamilah Jor’dan provided a document (See attachment C) for additional information.

It was announced that Marsha Hawley will need to step down from her tri-chair position on PDAC at the end of June as her role with The Ounce has changed.

### **Gateways Credential Fee Waiver**

- Through the original PDG-B5 grant last fall, Gateways was able to offer a free credential waiver for a limited time and with a limited budget. Working with CCR&R colleagues Gateways started in SDA 16 and continued with counties in the lower third of the state until funds were exhausted.
- Working with the City of Chicago and DCFS, Gateways launched a small initiative earlier this year for infant toddler teachers to apply for free credentials, of this group 70% of those we targeted qualified for a credential.
- Moving forward with PDG-B5 funding, for hopefully the next three years, but guaranteed for the remainder of 2020 Gateways will be able to waive credentials fees. Funding is limited, the goal is to award 3,500 to 4,000 fee waivers.

### **Intersecting Work**

- Workforce Survey/Teach Plus
  - Teach Plus has developed a survey for assistant teachers.
  - Assistant teachers who are in the workforce present a real potential pipeline toward becoming teachers. They represent a rich diversity in the field. It is a group that has not had a survey directly targeted to them.

Teach Plus is using the information from the survey to see if they want to become teachers, and if so what barriers are they encountering.

- The survey has been shared around the state, including the Gateways Facebook page.
- Teach Plus will share the results of the survey.
- Advance Illinois
  - Advance Illinois will expand their connectivity and connections to early childhood. In the past Advance Illinois has been more focused on K-12.
- PDAC Committee Reports
  - Information & Trends
    - The committee shared their document (See attachment D).
    - Should PDAC address issues, and what does it mean for PDAC to tackle an issue? Does PDAC take a stand or just an awareness and response to top trends?
    - It was recommended that the committee should bring forward recommendations or suggestions that they feel that PDAC should be addressing, including a recommendation if needed.
    - The question was asked is it time for clearly defined goals related to EC Professional (provider) education levels? Should some group step up and say this is what we believe in Illinois and where we should be headed.
    - PDAC could support the Power to the Professional roles and educator levels: is this the vision for our future and what does it take to get there?
    - Is there risk in setting those types of goals?
      - IT Committee could surface these questions and bring forward and coordinate with the committee best suited to address the issue.
  - Financial Support
    - The committee held a meeting two weeks ago reviewing the final goal of the strategic plan, which includes identifying non compensation strategies, especially around staff professional development. The committee also looked at the Workforce Environment Survey through the McCormick Foundation.
  - Workforce Development and Pathways
    - The committee will be meeting in April.
  - Higher Education
    - The committee will hold a meeting in April. Cathy Main will no longer be able to be a tri-chair as she is coordinating a grant that will take up extra time in her schedule.
    - The committee continues to monitor legislation that will influence the next steps of the committee, especially the Gateways Level 1.
  - Qualifications and Credentials
    - The committee is establishing review committees for the five-year review of the ECE and ITC Gateways Credentials.

