

**PDAC Steering Zoom Meeting
May 20, 2020**

Bela Mote	Joni Scritchlow	Marcy Mendenhall
Beth Knight	Joyce Weiner	Marsha Hawley
Christi Chadwick	Julie Lindstrom	Olga Torres
Dawn Thomas	Karen McCarthy	Rebecca Pruitt
Gail Nelson	Kate Connor	Stephanie Bernoteit
Joellyn Whitehead	Lauri Morrison Frichtl	Teri Talan
Johnna Darragh Ernst	Laurie Rhodes	

PDAC Steering Welcome –Marsha Hawley and Johnna Darragh Ernst

- Joyce Weiner read the vision, mission, and values.

Review and Approval of Minutes

- March 11, 2020
 - Marcy Mendenhall moved to accept the minutes.
 - Bela Mote seconded the motion.

Recent Initiatives and Opportunities

- Dr. Theresa Hawley was a keynote speaker at the 2020 Gateways Higher Education Forum.
- Dr. Hawley focused on developing a high quality ECEC workforce and higher education programs.
 - Areas of emphasis:
 - Increasing compensation
 - Strengthening workforce development pathways
 - Expand quality center-based infant-toddler care slots, and what that means for infant toddler teacher preparation and qualifications
 - How do we bring home visiting to a greater saturation point and scaling up?
 - Fill-in PFA/PDAE/HS “deserts”
 - Raise overall quality of preschool in child care centers
 - Build out stronger pathways for BA/PEL
 - Explore innovations for potential to scale
 - Credit-bearing CDAs
 - Credit for prior learning

Grants

- Through PDG-B5 grant funding opportunities for Higher Education Institutions:
 - Modularization Grant: Illinois Gateways to Opportunity® and ECE Credential competency project for two 2-year and two 4-year institutions.
 - A consortium of faculty from higher education institutions will work to design curriculum into discrete modules using the Gateways ECE Credential competencies as the basis. The project will also incorporate assessment of prior learning opportunities.
- Grant Opportunities for cohorts through Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE):
 - Cohorts will advance credentials or degree completion. It is designed to grow the number of working early childhood professionals who hold an Illinois Gateways credential or degree. Eligible higher education

institutions may apply to IBHE by June 8, 2020 for grant funds to support a cohort of working adults to complete a credential.

- The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Grant funding from the McCormick Foundation will provide supports and funding in terms of online and virtual learning access utilization of technology within Higher Education Institutions. McCormick Grant funding and Perkins funding is designed to help our early childhood education competency-based education programs think about having access to Mersion Technology and ways to think about piloting use of technology in terms of early childhood programs.
- Call for panelists
 - Want to do a crosswalk regarding the Illinois home visitor and bring in experts together where there is overlap, continuity and strengths regarding the Gateways Family Supports Specialist Credential, the competencies and the CDA.

Illinois Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals

- Part 1 of a draft document was shared regarding ECE Competencies.
 - The document is word heavy, but the links shared with the meeting materials show how a document could be more infographic or image centric.
 - The document needs to move to one or two PDAC committees to create a final document. Steering could provide guidance as to what committee might have the greatest relevance.
 - We need a document with common language with practitioners as part of the group.
 - Need to use the document that is created as an engagement tool.
 - Use as a tool to facilitate engagement with practitioners.
 - Should be written in layman terms and what it means to the practitioner.
 - Possible to hold a webinar for directors so they can share with staff once the document is finalized.
 - Professional Development partners need to be included.
- The second document shared is a tool that an individual can use to fill-out as an individual professional development plan. The document could also be used by administrators to fill-out on staff.
 - Challenges to the tool:
 - Self -assessment is often not reflective.
 - Directors would like to check off what competencies their staff have, to enable staff to work in a classroom.

COVID-19 Implications

- Concerns regarding Higher Education early childhood programs opening or re-opening. Higher Education Institutions are evaluating and exploring what a summer and/or fall session would look like using online and virtual platforms.
- What will enrollment look like and the fiscal impact on Higher Education Institutions.

State Agency/Commission Updates

- Governor Pritzker's Early Childhood Funding Commission
 - Working groups are continuing to meet.
 - The recommendations will be given to the Governor, but the recommendations probably won't be acted on for at least a year due to COVID19.
 - COVID-19 has spotlighted disparities and inequities. This has allowed for a deeper conversation around equity.
 - Four Working Groups:
 - Management and oversight
 - Inclusion
 - Funding Adequacy
 - Funding Mechanism
 - Working Groups are starting to overlap in their recommendations, working group will begin meeting together.

- Meetings are open to the public and information is posted to GOECD website.
- Question: Should PDAC Steering recommend that these recommendations be made public while we wait for implementation?
 - PDAC Steering voted thumbs ups to support the recommendations be made public.
- Illinois Head Start Association
 - Centers continue to be closed, but IHSA continues to support families. There has been a huge need within communities across the state regarding access to food, resources, and supplies.
 - A lot of new professional development opportunities, trying to organize this information for directors and staff.
 - Have been collecting stories, videos, and pictures to share.
 - A great deal of needs regarding mental health, especially when re-opening.
 - 50% of centers have submitted applications for summer programs. Surveys sent to workforce and families indicate parents are not interested in sending their children to the summer program and that the workforce do not want to come back.
 - Challenges around technology regarding who has access and who doesn't.
- Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development
 - PDG-B5
 - Needs assessment has been approved.
 - Strategic Plan is under review by Federal Officers.
 - Upon approval will move forward with activities focused on program funding and QRIS Standards.
 - Launching the Education Reimbursement Initiative, Postsecondary Cohort Initiative, and Course Modularization Initiative.
 - COVID-19 Response
 - Collaboration with INCCRRA, Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, State agency partners are addressing the supply chain for PPE for providers.
 - Collaboration with IDHS and State Partners to convene the Child Care Policy Workgroup.
 - Developed a guide to address anti-Asian racism and xenophobia.
 - MIECHV – Home Visiting Program
 - BLUEPRINT in progress to plan for the expansion of home visiting.
 - Home visiting is virtual. Program staff facilitated a webinar and issued virtual guidance in collaboration with IDHS.
- Illinois State Board of Education
 - FY21 RFP for Early Childhood Block grants are in process, the evaluation of the RFPs have taken place. The grant announcements have not been made yet.
 - FY20 grants will be going into the ISBE electronic grant system this spring.
 - Have had requests for submission amendments. Programs want to alter grants to reflect the needs of remote learning.
 - PFA and PFA Expansion coaches continue to provide supports.
 - COVID-19 information is located on the main page of the ISBE website.
- Illinois Board of Higher Education
 - Higher Education COVID-19 response.
 - Currently undertaking scenario planning for what could happen regarding the fall school year, coordinating with the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan.
 - State and National organizations are beginning to release frameworks /guidance for re-opening at Higher Education Institutions for fall 2020.
 - IBHE and ICCB will have a meeting on 5.21.2020 with public and private universities presidents, and public health experts to share guidance for Illinois institutions for their work in the fall.
 - ICCB has also convened a workgroup specifically on community college systems.
 - Want to create as much commonality alignment as possible while respecting the uniqueness that exist among our HEIs.

- Concern regarding the ability of student teacher candidates to be placed in child care settings. How do we get students in through the training pipelines?
- Illinois Department of Human Services
 - No report
 - Question was posed: Is IDHS surveying or asking centers that are currently open about what is being done successfully, in order for centers that will open later in the year about good practices?
 - Shauna Ejuh from Illinois Action for Children reported that the CCR&Rs are doing a survey with emergency providers around their needs, and some CCR&Rs directors are working with INCCRRA i to offer providers PPE and cleaning supplies.
 - 80% of family, friends, and neighbors continue to provide care.
 - 50% licensed family childcare continue to provide care.
 - More than 2,600 emergency child care stipends were paid out worth more than \$3 million.
 - The CCR&Rs have started a helpline for essential workers looking for child care.
 - IDHS released a survey focused on how child care centers accessed federal funds.
 - Looking at ways to collect data so we can see the overall picture of need.
 - A priority is the need for cleaning supplies for centers who are offering placement for emergency workers. Cleaning supplies could be an impediment for other centers to open as the state opens up this summer.
- **PDAC and PDAC Steering Schedule 2020-2021**
 - Potential 2020/2021 dates will be shared with Steering members for feedback.

