

PDAC Steering
August 19, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Bela Mote	Joyce Weiner	Marcy Mendenhall
Cindy Wall	Julie Lindstrom	Marsha Hawley
Dawn Thomas	Karen McCarthy	Rebecca Livengood
Gail Nelson	Kate Connor	Shauna Ejeh
Johnna Darragh Ernst	Lauri Morrison Frichtl	Stephanie Bernoteit
Joni Scritchlow	Laurie Rhodes	Teri Talan

PDAC Steering Welcome

- Karen McCarthy read the PDAC Mission, Vision & Values.

Review and Approval of Minutes

- May 20, 2020 (Attachment 1)
 - Marcy Mendenhall moved to accept the minutes
 - Joyce Weiner seconded the motion.

TeachPlus Workforce Survey

- Roisleen Todd, Cindy Rice and Sinthu Ramalingam presented on behalf of TeachPlus.
 - Their presentation was entitled: Addressing the Teacher Shortage Crisis in Illinois
 - Early Childhood classrooms across the state are struggling to find lead teachers to fill their classrooms.
 - TeachPlus hypothesized that Illinois can alleviate teacher shortage crisis by supporting teachers in completing their lead teacher certification requirements. They can provide this support by funding the creation of higher education programs that offer hybrid learning options and course credit for demonstrated competencies gained through work experience.
 - What is stopping teachers from pursuing their lead teacher certification and what is needed in order for them to begin and complete lead certification programs?
 - An online survey was sent using the Illinois Gateways to Opportunity Registry newsletter and social media. Findings included:
 - Paraprofessionals want to become lead teachers.
 - They are willing to enroll in alternative pathways to certification.
 - Those currently working in early childhood classrooms have neither the time nor the financial means to pursue higher education coursework to attain their lead teacher certification.
 - They are building capacity and skill in a variety of domains related to becoming a lead teacher through work experience.
 - 82% of those who responded to the survey would like to become lead teachers of early childhood classrooms.
 - Money and time were the greatest barriers in why paraprofessionals have not become lead teachers.
 - 90.3% of respondents would consider lead teacher certification if competency-based assessments were offered to receive course credit for prior experience.
 - 86.3% of respondents would consider lead teacher certification if the course programming were flexibly scheduled, including both in person and online learning options.

- Implications and Recommendations
 - The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) should provide and prioritize funding for the development of accessible and flexible higher education programs that award credit for demonstration of prior learning and skills.
 - Institutions of higher education should partner with local childcare agencies and school districts to build structures and collaboratives within which students can receive educational and professional support for program completion.
 - The Illinois Funding Commission should recommend stipends to employers to supplement the hours of work during which employees would pursue coursework as well as provide an incentive program for employees upon completion of a Gateways benchmark credentials, degrees and certification.

Early Educator Investment Collaboration/State System Building Funding Opportunity

- National Louis University submitted the proposal on behalf of the state of Illinois with support and partnerships from various other higher education institutions. Part of the proposal is to receive funding in order to house a repository of learner records/transcripts and to expand modularization work beyond the Gateways ECE Credential.
- The PDAC Steering Committee agreed to submit a letter of support of the proposal.

Illinois Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals Document

- The document was shared for any feedback from Steering members.
- The document is a static document that is forward facing and designed for the entirety of the ECE field to make it a user friendly document for the practitioner.
- The document was shared with the Workforce Development and Pathways Committee and those suggestions were incorporated into the document shared today. The document will also be shared with the Qualifications and Credentials for additional input.

Information Connected to the Work of PDAC

- Funding Commission – Bela Mote and Shauna Ejeh
 - The coalition has pulled together focus groups to talk through the recommendations coming forward from the four committees. Seeking stakeholder input and insight. Input at this time has been mainly from those in the northern part of the state, hope to have additional input from the entire state.
 - The Management Oversight Committee is looking at creating one new agency that will manage the bulk of early care and education funding and manage the oversight of that funding.
 - The Inclusion Committee has focused on the delivery of services and how to remove barriers for families.
- Illinois Department of Human Services – Cindy Wall
 - Effective July 1, 2020 the following recommendations went into effect:
 - Gateways Credentials applications will remain open for 3-years
 - Increase in Great START Wage Scale Supplement
 - Gateways Scholarship began 6-month eligibility
 - Reminder that the fiscal impact of recommendations should be included
 - IDHS continues to work on COVID related activities:
 - The Child Care Restoration Grants have been released
- Illinois Board of Higher Education – Stephanie Bernoteit
 - The IBHE power point was shared regarding assessing equity in post-secondary education in Illinois. The power point focuses on race/ethnicity equity gaps. Illinois is not meeting the needs of our students particularly our African American and Latinx students.
 - Illinois has the 11th largest BA attainment gap between White and African Americans.
 - An interactive map is located at <https://www.ibhe.org/equity/html>
 - PDAC Steering members were encouraged to review The State of Illinois Model Programs of Study Guide: Education document in order to offer public comment before the close on August 28, 2020.

- Illinois State Board of Education – Karen McCarthy
 - ISBE has allowed grantees to use funds to purchase technology for families.
 - ISBE is nearing completion on a work plan to support children’s social and emotional development and to strengthen staff skills in addressing challenging behavior using Pyramid models and cohorts in Preschool for All and Preschool For All Expansion.
 - KIDS Data:
 - At this time only districts have access to their data.
 - Data will be released to the public on August 24, 2020.
 - For fall 2020 data collection ISBE has extended the observation/collection period until December 1, 2020. Coaches are still available to provide supports to teachers and administrators.
 - Currently offering virtual KIDS training through September.
- Illinois Head Start Association – Lauri Morrison Frichtl
 - The Office of Head start released Funding Opportunity Application for Early Head Start Expansion and Early Head Start Partnerships for 103 million dollars. They are anticipating 60 awards through this opportunity.
 - The Ounce of Prevention and Chicago Department of Family Support Services are in Designation Renewal System, which means their grant has ended and they will need to reapply and they are open for competition.
- Illinois Action for Children – Shauna Ejeh
 - Have continued to distribute funds in Cook County, this includes emergency funding to childcare providers.
 - Continue to see providers struggling during the pandemic.
 - Looking at potential providers opening in September, will be looking at data and using a survey to help with the decision process.
 - Greatest need is around school age supports, looking at making connections for providers. Getting information out to providers regarding tutors.
- Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development report out from Joni and Stephanie
 - PDG B-5 Credential Fee Waiver
 - Have received more than 2,000 applications since June 15th when Credential application fee waiver was announced.
 - PDG B-5 Modularization
 - Five institutions are participating in the project: National Louis University, Northern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Heartland Community College and Moraine Valley Community College.
 - Kicked off work on August 3rd, and on September 25th will bring together Faculty Fellows along with faculty working on the modularization project to give input into the project and help shape direction.
 - PDG B-5 Cohorts
 - Joliet Junior College, Lewis University, Quincey University, National Louis University, and Western Illinois University are engaged in the cohort project.
 - Two of the institutions are engaged in instructional modules for infant toddler. Work includes prior learning assessments, and ESL/Bilingual credential.

ESL/Bilingual Credential Development

- The credential is currently in pilot at four higher education institutions. If need the credential will be modified based on pilot information. Hope to launch in early 2021.
- Will begin to work with ISBE to align to the ESL Bilingual endorsement at the teacher endorsement level. The credential was designed with the intent that it would align to the teacher endorsement and the pathways are continuous.

Resources for Professional Development

- Inclusion
 - Aligned inclusion to individual credentials. These have been placed on the Gateways Website. They are placed within the content areas with the title “Related Inclusion Resources”.
 - The same model has been expanded for ESL/Bilingual resources.
- Anti- Racist document
 - Have begun to collect resources for the credentials. Currently have 70 resources on the list and would like to have people review the list. If you have any additional resources that should be included send Johnna the link and she will align to the appropriate content area or competency.

Announcements

- Using the Zoom polling tool, PDAC Steering members picked KIDS data for a deeper discussion. At this time we will hold a follow-up meeting on September 16th. Terri Lamb at ISBE will be contacted to join us as she is the KIDS liaison at ISBE.

Adjourn

