

PDAC Steering Committee**March 5, 2025****Meeting Minutes**

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| Aja Owasoyo | Joyce Gronewold | Marsha Hawley |
| Bela Mote | Julie Lindstrom | Mercedes Mondragon |
| Beth Knight | Kate Connor | Rebecca Pruitt |
| Christi Chadwick | Lisa Downey | Sharyl Robin |
| Gail Nelson | Lori Harrison | Shauna Ejuh |
| Gwyn Moss | Lynn Burgett | Toni Porter |
| Johnna Darragh Ernst | Marcy Mendenhall | Trinita Winston |
| | | Wendy Williams |

Members were welcomed to the meeting by the Tri-Chairs**Approval of the minutes**

- December 4, 2024
 - Gwyn Moss moved to accept the minutes.
 - Christi Chadwick seconded the motion.
 - Minutes were approved.

PDAC Steering Meeting in May 2025

- The May 14th Steering meeting will be in-person at INCCRRA from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
- Lunch will be provided. Travel and hotel accommodation will be covered.
- Steering members were asked to provide any topics that they would like to be included for the meeting.
- The focus will be on the Strategic Plan, especially a year two focus and expectations.
- Members will devote time at this meeting to review plan goals/objectives and add action or next steps.
- The meeting will give time for committees that have cross-over goals to discuss and make appropriate next steps.

Strategic Plan X Year 1: Status**Financial Supports**

- The goal is to strengthen the workforce. Looking to better understand prior learning assessment and apprenticeship models.
- Exploring how to use state resources to eliminate or reduce the fee barriers for the CDA.
- Researching how to expand existing funding opportunities such as Gateways Scholarship or Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) funding.
- Financial Supports wants to ensure that we strengthen the workforce pathways without additional costs.
- An intersecting goal: Financial Supports and Higher Education Committees would like to work together on the prior learning assessment topic including different potential funding resources and state policies.

Higher Education

- The focus has been on Goal 1 and Goal 3.
- During the last Higher Education meeting, members reviewed the Gateways Annual Entitled Institution Update Form. This document could be revised to collect additional information that the committee and institutions could use to highlight trends, programs and data.
- Committee members are supporting the Gateways Higher Education Forum. A theme at the Forum includes innovative practices. A state panel from various agencies will share information on systems and the impact of state changes and funding.
- During the Forum a new faculty luncheon will be held. During the lunch PDAC will be introduced as part of the program so faculty know about the work of PDAC and especially the Higher Education Committee. Could be used as a recruiting tool.

Qualifications and Credentials

- Currently working on Goal 2 Objective 2. The committee is gathering information on micro-credentials including what is working with other states using similar systems.
- Under the QC Committee, ad hocs will be coordinated to review Gateways Credentials. Credentials are to be reviewed every five years. Will prioritize those that should be reviewed and create a timeline for the reviews and next steps.
- The QC Committee will need to think about the implications of the new administration on the work of not just QC, but PDAC overall.
 - Expectations might change depending on the funding. The role of Steering is to think about what those conditions might be, PDAC might have to adjust, recalibrate, or limit actions. PDAC must be nimble enough to recognize these issues but continue to move the Strategic Plan forward or rethink the plan as necessary.

Workforce Development and Pathway

- The committee has been reviewing the CDA and looking into the data regarding the workforce.
- The WDP Committee is evaluating communication strategies, reviewing infographics the committee created several years ago, and looking to see if they are still relevant to the workforce.
- An intersecting goal: a conversation for WDP and Higher Ed. regarding onboarding learners who already have the CDA and enrolling at higher education institutions.

Steering

- Steering has concentrated on Goal 1:
 - Reviewed and restructured the onboarding practice for new PDAC members.
 - Updated information on the Gateways Website.
 - Hosted a new members orientation zoom meeting. Goal is to hold these semi-annually.
 - Looking at providing mentors to new members.
 - Have added nine IDHS representatives to PDAC Steering.

Reports and Updates

- Transition Advisory Committee
 - A Transition Advisory report has been produced that highlights findings and summarizes year one. The report will be released soon.
 - The Illinois Department of Early Childhood is in the process of hiring staff. IDEC has recently added a new chief data officer.
- Illinois State Board of Education
 - ISBE proposed a \$75 million dollar increase, but during the recent Governors budget announcement this funding will remain flat.

- No formal updates on the release of the FY26 RFPs, but the department has received more than 200 notices of intent to apply for the next round.

State and National Information Sharing with Members

- Steering members shared national, state and local activities related to the ECE field regarding recent administration announcements.

Adjourn

Next meeting: May 14, 2025, In Person at INCCRRA

