



Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding

Commission Meeting #13

December 8, 2020

Meeting reminders



- **Add your name** to your Zoom (click on the 3 dots)
- **Consider being on video** to help with overall engagement
- **Mute self** when not speaking
- **Use Raise Hand function or Chat** for questions (send to everyone)
- Technical issues can happen to anyone – **chat privately to Bethany or Carrie for any needs**
- If you are experiencing an unstable connection - **switch to phone call or close other applications**
- Members of the **public will have an opportunity to speak at the end** of the meeting

Today's Goals

- Consider findings of the **Racial Equity Working Group**
- Consider an update from the **Technical Working Group**
- Share reactions to **draft report outline**
- Determine process for **implementation planning**



Today's Agenda

Agenda Item	Time
Roll Call, Agenda, and Opening	12:00-12:15
Findings of Racial Equity Working Group	12:15-1:10
Findings of Technical Working Group	1:10-1:20
Reactions to Draft Report Outline	1:20-1:40
Implementation Planning Process	1:40-1:50
Next Steps	1:50-1:55
Public Comment	1:55-2:00

The Commission's Report, in response to the charge, will inform eventual legislation

"The Commission shall study and **make recommendations** to establish **funding goals and funding mechanisms** to provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care services for all children birth to age five and **advise the Governor in planning and implementing** these recommendations."



1. Funding Goals: How much **increased investment** is required to reach **funding adequacy** across the state for early childhood education and care
2. Funding Mechanism: How the **system of funding** should be redesigned to promote the Commission's Guiding Principles
3. Implementation: How **management & oversight** should be structured to implement the new system of funding

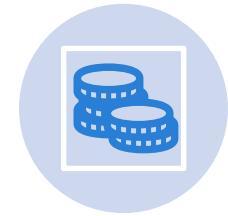
Through our recommendations, the Commission seeks to address critical challenges in today's ECEC system



INEQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY SERVICES, ESPECIALLY RACE, ETHNICITY, GEOGRAPHY, & AGE



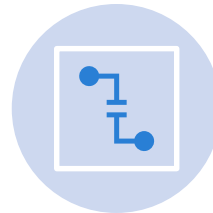
CHALLENGES FOR FAMILIES TO NAVIGATE THE SYSTEM



INSTABILITY OF FUNDING FOR PROVIDERS



INSUFFICIENT DATA TO INFORM EQUITABLE DECISION MAKING AND FUNDING



DISAGGREGATED
**ACCOUNTABILITY AND
DECISION MAKING**



INADEQUATE FUNDING, INCLUDING WORKFORCE COMPENSATION

The Commission's deliberations and draft recommendations have been consistently informed by our Guiding Principles

These Guiding Principles reflect the Commission's values and beliefs, guide how it operates, and lay a foundation for decision-making.

High Quality ECEC is a Public Priority

- It should be invested in as such as this is critical to our State's workforce, economy, and welfare of its residents.

Ensure Equity

- We will endorse a system that ensures equitable outcomes for children, with intentional focus on race, ethnicity, culture, language, income, children's individual needs, and geography.

Embrace Bold System-Level Changes

- Everything is on the table, including how funding flows, how funding decisions are made, and who makes them, to better serve all children and families.

Build Upon the Solid Foundation

- We will build upon the successes of Illinois' past and current system, its commitment to a prenatal to five system, the lessons from other states, and the expertise and research in the field.

Prioritize Family Perspectives, Needs, and Choices

- We will prioritize families' perspectives, needs, and choices as we make recommendations to improve the system.

Design for Stability and Sustainability

- We recognize our system must provide funding stability for providers, educators, and staff across mixed delivery settings to better serve families. System must embrace flexibility to respond to changing circumstances and family needs and must possess the human and technical capacity to do so.

Require System Transparency, Efficiency, and Accountability

- We see these as necessary conditions for all stakeholders, funding distributors, and funding recipients for any future ECEC funding structure.

Recognize Implementation Realities

- We will plan for meaningful change over a multi-year time horizon. We will respond to disruptions in the system to meet the reality of changing needs.

In our last meeting, we discussed the extension of our Commission to March 2021



Fully consider feedback from the National Panel of Experts



Fully consider recommendations from the Racial Equity Working Group



Fully consider Technical Working Group findings in our recommendations



Ensure child-centered focus of our recommendations



Formulate details of planning and implementation work for March-December 2021 to ensure recommendations move forward

Racial Equity Working Group Findings

Racial Equity Working Group and Focus Group Participants

CUE Senior Fellow Leaders

- Vanessa Lee
- Adam Slade

Focus Group Participants: parents, providers, and CUE fellows

- Rosa Campos
- Elizabeth Hamilton
- Estefania Hernandez
- Louis Makarewicz
- Marcy Mendenhall
- Sara Renicker
- Dr. Alexios Rosario-Moore
- Jessica Sullivan
- L Denise Turner
- Patricia Twymon

Racial Equity Working Group

- Jennifer Alexander
- Zach Allen
- Superintendent Carmen Ayala
- Karen Berman
- Patricia Chamberlain
- George Davis
- Kisha Davis
- Shauna Ejeh
- Phyllis Glink
- Rochelle Golliday
- Rey Gonzalez
- Carisa Hurley
- Dr. Jamilah R. Jor'dan
- Dr. Kim Mann
- Cathy Mannen
- Dr. Kenya McRae
- Bela Mote
- Gail Nourse
- Evelyn Osorio
- Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas
- Dr. Aisha Ray

Racial Equity Impact Assessment inspired analysis

STEP 1: DETERMINE OUTCOMES AND STAKEHOLDERS.

- Q1. What is the policy and what problem is it trying to solve?
- Q2. What other issues can this proposal impact?
- Q3. Who are the key groups impacted by this issue?
- Q4. How will these groups be involved in decision-making?

STEP 2: LOOK AT NUMBERS AND NARRATIVES.

- Q5. What data will we collect and look at? Why?
- Q6. Where do we see disparities in the numbers?
- Q7. What can we learn from histories and narratives to better understand these numbers?
- Q8. What questions still remain? What information do we wish we had?

STEP 3: MEASURE BENEFITS AND BURDENS.

- Q9. What are the benefits and who is most likely to receive them?
- Q10. What are the burdens and who is most likely to bear them?
- Q11. What are different options to make this policy racially equitable?

STEP 4: EVALUATE AND BE ACCOUNTABLE.

- Q12. How will we evaluate the impacts of your solution?
- Q13. How will our stakeholders engage in ensuring equitable outcomes?
- Q14. How will we report back on these outcomes?
- Q15. How will our evaluation impact improvements to the policy?

A Caveat

- The Racial Equity Working Group believes that:
 - Providing equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care services will not, alone, solve racial inequity in Illinois, and
 - Creating racial equity in early childhood education and care must involve other systems outside of early childhood.

How will folks be impacted?

(Inspired by Q9 and Q10: Measure benefits and burdens)

Who will be most impacted?

- ELC priority populations
- Children in areas without adequate ECEC services
- Diverse learners, multilingual learners
- Children of color
- Those experiencing racial or economic disparities
- The early childhood workforce
- Providers who are unable to adapt to a new system
- School-based providers who must work with a new agency
- State agency staff managing the transition

What will these impacts depend on?

- Resources to **build and maintain community capacity and infrastructure**, including facilities and collaborations
- How the State invests in the capacity necessary (e.g., workforce) to **equitably increase investments**
- How parents and beneficiaries are **engaged and valued**.
- How **groups are prioritized**, such as diverse learners, multilingual learners, and children of color
- How **resources are prioritized** and allocated
- Whether funds are aligned to **provider operating costs**
- **Culture change**, sufficient staff, and leadership that focuses on racial equity
- **Accountability** and evaluation of implementing the recommendations, with a racial equity lens

How can the recommendations (and their implementation) be more racially equitable?

(Inspired by Q11: What are different options to make this policy racially equitable?)

Clarify Commission recommendations

- **Expand the funding adequacy cost model** to include local infrastructure, capacity building, and family engagement.
- **Tailor supports** for different types of providers and prioritize capacity building within the new funding mechanism.
- Explicitly identify the **roles and responsibilities for leadership** at the state agency level. Identify talent with the disposition, skills, mindset, and track record to focus on racial equity and achieve racial equity outcomes.
- Demonstrate a commitment to **racial equity as the basis** for creating a new agency.

Ensure implementation prioritizes racial equity

- **Model the cost to get to adequate funding**, including in sectors such as higher education.
- Engage the Black and Brown workforce, providers, and communities in designing equitable and sustainable system changes. **Invest in building trust**.
- **Prioritize investments** in services, geographies, populations, and age cohorts that have the greatest current disparities in access and quality.
- **Train and support state agency staff** so they can best support families, providers, and communities of color.
- Build **IT and data systems** that allow data analysis by race/ethnicity to support decision-making.
- Specify the role of **regional and community level entities**, including accessing and distributing funds and services, and commit to building their capacity over multiple years.

How will implementation include accountability and evaluation?

(Inspired by Step 4: Evaluate and Be Accountable)

Accountability for equity is most important in an environment of scarcity.

Stakeholder Engagement, Involvement, and Co-Ownership

- Involve the Early Learning Council's Family Advisory Committee, including in evaluation of recommendation implementation.
- Track diversity of representation across provider types and families.
- Co-create services offered to communities with recipients and stakeholders, particularly underrepresented groups.
- Provide adequate funding to support family councils, including paying parents to be able to participate.
- Require local collaboration boards to contain a minimum percentage of parents to receive public funding.
- Create a state-level parent accountability council.

Decision-Making Tools

- Use a racial equity tool in decision-making, such as the Early Learning Council's adopted Racial Equity Impact Assessment.

Evaluating Equity in Implementation

- Track adoption and implementation of recommendations and document impact and beneficiaries, including the impact on priority populations and communities of color. Involve beneficiaries in determining what to evaluate.
- Disaggregate all metrics by race.
- Conduct an annual report on early childhood education and care in the state and release it publicly

Perspectives from the Racial Equity Working Group Commission Members

Discussion

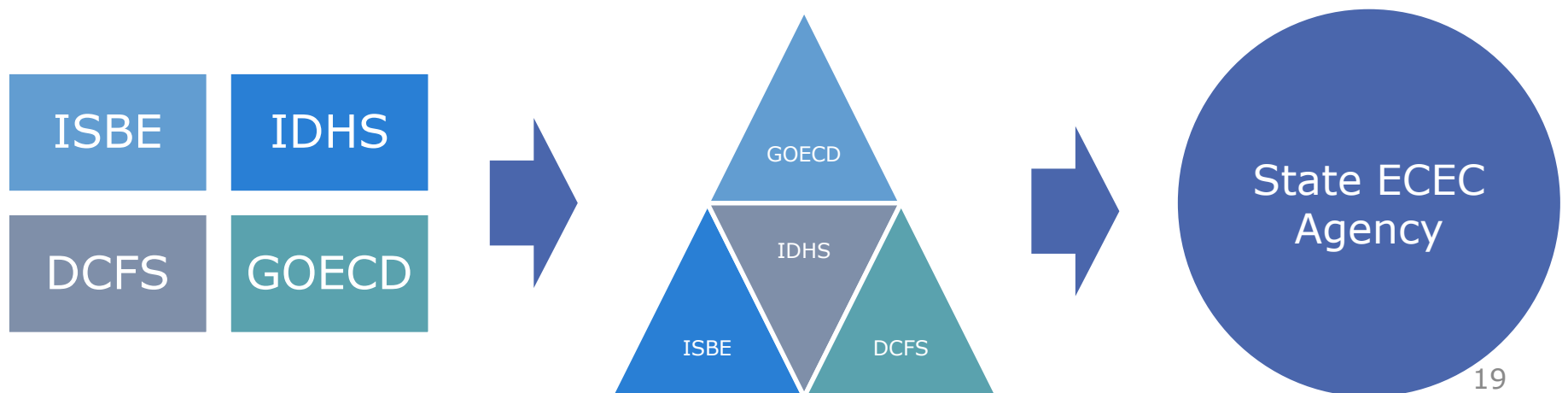
- What are your reactions to these findings?
- How should the Commission address the findings?

Technical Working Group Findings

First Goal: Estimate the cost to create a new state ECEC agency.

Methodology:

1. Identify current budget related to ECEC across ISBE, IDHS, DCFS, and GOECD
2. Prepare for centralization by standardizing budgets across agencies
3. Simulate centralization of these entities into a new state ECEC agency
 - Identify cost savings or additional expenditures generated
 - Scale up to full agency capacity based on state and local comparisons



Draft Report Outline

The Governor is the main audience of this Commission's report, with others

- This Commission's final report to the Governor is public
- The broader audience of the report includes:
 - Families
 - Early childhood education and care providers
 - Legislators
 - Early childhood advocates and advisory councils
 - State agency implementation team members
 - General public

Commissioner initial reactions

What aspects of the draft report outline are strongest in answering the Commission's charge?

How can the draft report outline be strengthened to better answer the Commission's charge?

What content specific changes or additions do you recommend, and why?

What do you envision a final, written report to include that you do not see in the outline?

Commissioners: Share in the chat box

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Implementation Planning Process

The Commission's long-term vision will take time, and change is needed ***now***

The Commission's vision can be carried forward in all these areas, with racial equity being a foundational component of each one:



Funding policy initiatives



Capacity planning for service providers



Data systems development



Workforce initiatives



Community systems planning



Centralized agency planning



Family engagement system



Advisory group re-alignment



Home visiting system blueprint

Next Steps

Next steps

- Finalize the work of the **Racial Equity** and **Technical Working Groups**
- Begin **draft of final report**, utilizing feedback on outline
- Formulate detailed **state agency work plan** for 2021
- January **Commission Meeting** will be held virtually on **a date to be soon determined**

Our schedule from now until March 2021

December 2020

- Receive updated findings from Racial Equity Working Group
- Receive updates from Technical Working Group
- Review outline of final report
- Host town halls

January 2021

- Consider planning and implementation priorities from March-December 2021
- Consider feedback received on the recommendations to date
- Review draft of final report
- Host town halls

February 2021

- Finalize planning and implementation priorities from March-December 2021
- Formal Commissioner sign-on to recommendations

March 2021

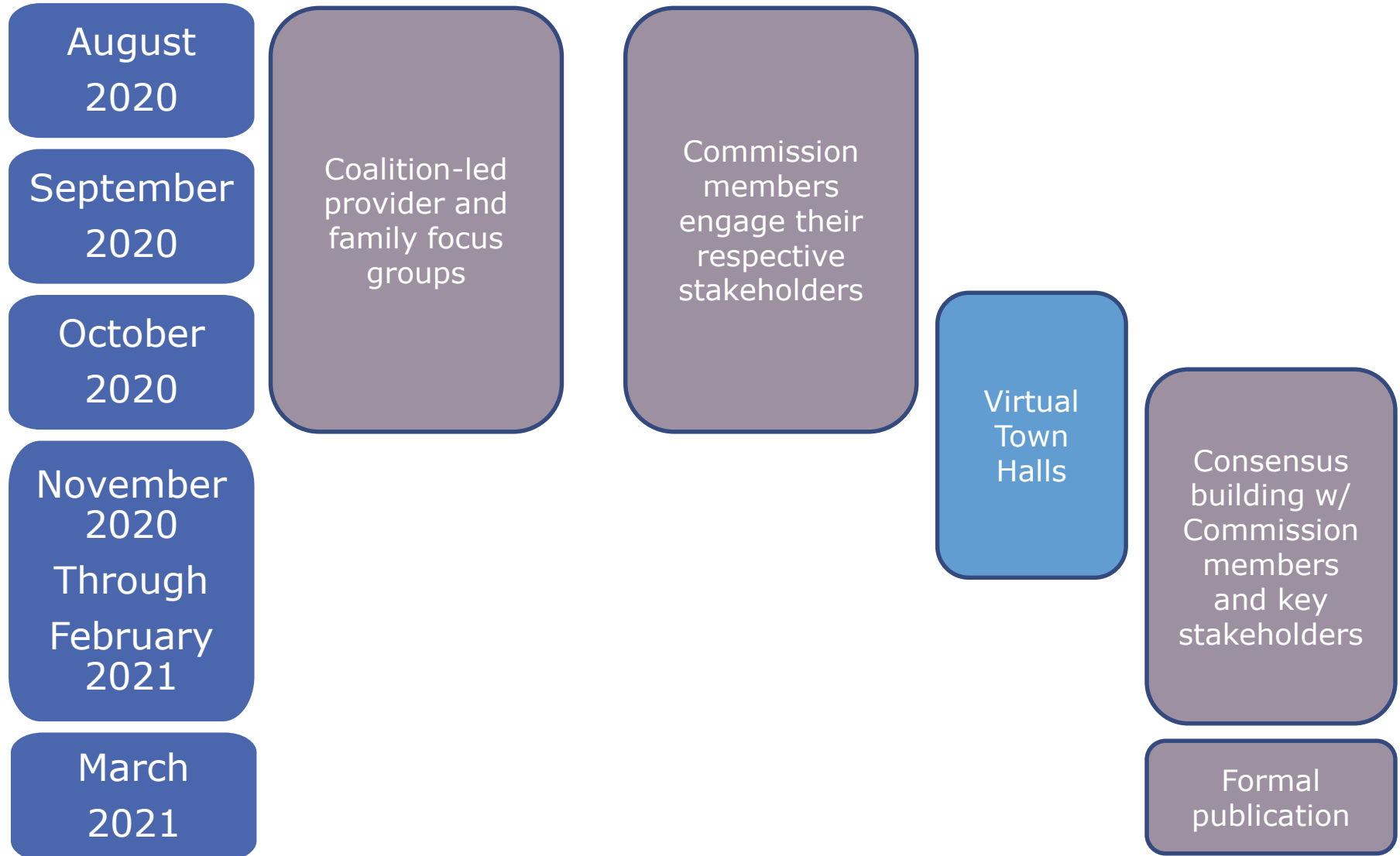
- Send recommendations to the Governor

We plan to schedule Commission meetings for January – March 2021



Stakeholder Engagement Activities

August 2020 - March 2021



Commission Virtual Town Halls will take place in December and January

- Four town halls
 - Thursday, December 10 from 8:00-9:15pm
 - Wednesday, December 16 from 8:00-9:15pm
 - Wednesday, January 6 from 8:00-9:15pm
 - Thursday, January 14 from **8:45-10:00am**
- Facilitated by Early Childhood Funding Coalition
- Focus on engagement with stakeholders
 - Overview of the Commission: 20 minutes
 - Q&A with Commissioners: 40 minutes
 - Public Comment: 15 minutes
- Materials, talking points, and optional prep calls coming soon!

Stakeholder Engagement Call for Feedback and Recommendations

Commission members or members of the public who would like to provide written feedback on the Working Groups' initial conclusions or any other materials presented or discussed at the Commission are invited to do so.

Please submit your written feedback to the Commission by emailing it to bethany.patten@Illinois.gov.

Starting December 21, send feedback and questions to Jennifer.Hernandez@Illinois.gov.

Public Comment

Thank You

