

FORESIGHT LAW+POLICY



Illinois DEC Advisory Groups Planning Work Group

June 30, 2025

Plan for Today

- Introductions
- Meeting Norms
- Developing an Inclusive Advisory Structure
- Approach to the Work
- Next steps
- Public Comment

Welcome!

Here are our virtual meeting protocols.

For Workgroup Members:

- ✓ **Please be on video** as much as possibly to help with overall engagement
- ✓ **Mute self** when not speaking
- ✓ **Feel free to come of mute, use Chat feature or “raise hand” button** for questions or comments
- ✓ If you are experiencing an unstable connection, **switch to phone call or close other applications**

For Public Participants:

- Attendees can provide input through public comment (last five minutes of meeting)

A green rectangular sign with the words "ON AIR" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The sign has a slight 3D effect with a darker green border and a lighter green center.

Introductions

Proposed Workgroup Norms

- Process is part of the solution
- Step Up, Step Back
- Questions seek to understand, be curious
- Prioritize parent experience and provider experience
- Act with courage and vulnerability
- Recognize the difference between intent and impact; I might not intend to hurt or offend but the impact may be to hurt or offend

Overview

Developing an Inclusive Advisory Structure

- Advisory groups historically have been the main method of engaging with stakeholders, but often were populated primarily by advocates for whom engagement is a core part of their job.
- How can we ensure a future advisory function that is intentional in incorporating and reflecting the views of the providers and families? This includes moving past practices like:
 - Scheduling advisory groups when it is a struggle/challenge for many providers and families to participate
 - Establishing norms of participation in an advisory group that are not welcoming or inclusive
 - Membership that perpetuates isolation and tokenism
 - Only one way/modality (attend the meeting) to engage
 - Fails to include those that have been least well served by the system
- The recommendations must address these issues and ensure that all voices, especially those of providers and families, will be heard in a meaningful way.
- Thoughts?

Balancing Breadth and Depth

- If advisory groups are too broad, each individual member may find very little that grabs them directly – making it hard for people to feel connected to the agenda
- If advisory groups are too narrow, there will be too many of them, creating a burden on both the agency and participants
- What other tensions have you experienced or seen?

Statutory Charge

- By July 1, 2026, the Department shall create or designate an advisory body to counsel the Department on an ongoing basis, ensuring the Department functions with transparency, operates with a commitment to centering racial equity and to meaningful inclusion of parent, early childhood service provider, and other public stakeholder engagement, feedback, and counsel, including the creation of committees or working groups, and devotes appropriate attention to data collection and timely public reporting. This advisory body's membership shall include representation from both public and private organizations, and its membership shall reflect the regional, racial, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of the State to ensure representation of the needs of all Illinois children and families.

– 325 ILCS 3/1-35

And we know from feedback and engagement, we need to think bolder, broader, and more inclusively about our advisory function overall.....

Draft Work Group Design Principles

Advisory Function must:

- **Center and prioritize the rich regional, racial, cultural and linguistic diversity of family wants/needs**
- **Promote equitable and inclusive** policy development on key issues
- Develop policy in an equitable and **efficient manner** by engaging stakeholders early in the process and through **multiple entry points**
- Be **flexible and responsive** to emerging needs
- Inform a larger context of advisory structures in early childhood (and beyond)
- **Improve transparency** and access for early childhood stakeholders
- Ensure **diversity of voice and lived experience**
- Meet our **state and federal obligations**

What needs more clarity?
What's missing?
Any additional edits?

Potential Questions & Areas for us to Address

- Identify a proposed approach for the advisory function
 - How will the system be designed?
 - What issues will be addressed, and where will they be addressed?
 - How will the overall advisory system operate (including modalities of feedback, sub-groups, connection to regional engagement, etc.)?
 - How do we ensure that we continue to bring new and diverse voices into the conversation?
 - How will partners be engaged in ways that maximize their impact while minimizing the burden?
 - How will we measure the effectiveness of this function? How will we support continued evolution as the Department and its partners continue to learn and grow?
 - How will we ensure that the Department's advisory structure fits within the larger context of state advisory structures?

What needs more clarity?
What's missing?
Any additional edits?

Approach to the Work

Proposed Approach to Developing a Plan for IDEC's Advisory Function

We will need this group's engagement to be clear on what the system needs, what's really happening now, and what actions will get us where we need to go. Does this resonate with the group?

1

Vision: What does a successful advisory structure look like?

2

Current state: what is our current advisory structure, and how is it functioning?

3

How do we get from current state to our vision?

Existing Advisory Councils at the Legacy Agencies

Agency	Council
IDEC	<i>Illinois Early Learning Council</i>
IDEC	Health and Home Visiting Committee (Home Visiting Advisory)
DCFS	Adoption Registry-Confidential Intermediary Advisory Council (ARCI)
DCFS	Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol Advisory Committee (CERAP)
DCFS	Child Welfare Employee Licensure Board (CWEL)
DCFS	Child Welfare Medicaid Managed Care Implementation Advisory Workgroup (MCO)
DCFS	Children and Family Services Advisory Council (ICFSAC)
DCFS	Children's Justice Task Force (CJTF)
DCFS	Illinois Child Death Review Team/Executive Council
DCFS	Statewide Citizen's Committee on Abuse/Neglect (SCAN)
DCFS	Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council (SWFCAC)
DCFS	Statewide Youth Advisory Board
DHS	Child Care Advisory Council
DHS	Child Care Advisory Council – Ad Hoc Committee for Smart Start Child Care
DHS	Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention
DHS	Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Advisory Board
DHS	Professional Development Advisory Council
ISBE	Advisory Council on Bilingual Education (IACBE)
ISBE	Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities
ISBE	Evidence-Based Funding Professional Review Panel
ISBE	KIDS Advisory Committee
ISBE	Professional Educator Licensure Review Board
ISBE	Purchased Care Review Board
ISBE	Rural Education Advisory Council
ISBE	State Education Equity Committee
Multiple	Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity

- Many of these help us meet state and federal requirements.
- Not all of these will be directly under IDEC.
- Some of these groups will likely stay where they are in their current form, in which case we should propose a structure for IDEC's relationship with those groups.
- Help us identify other committees/councils/etc. We should include in this list

Engaging with a Broad Range of Partners

- Multiple Illinois organizations have developed reports and recommendations on strategies for engaging with providers, families, and other partners whose voices are needed in advisory processes
- We have started compiling some of those reports, but welcome suggestions
 - We also encourage suggestions of relevant reports from other jurisdictions
- We will compile a list in the coming weeks and share it back with this group
- Are there any key ideas members have seen (or generated) that they want to share at this time?

Tentative Timeline

- Launch in June, have recommendations in time for the 2026 legislative session (if necessary)
 - Some of the recommendations may be more granular than would normally be codified in statute, but at the very least any statutory-level recommendations need to be completed by **fall 2025**
- We need to set a cadence of meetings to get our work done
- Between now and our next meeting, please continue to add to the running document of current advisories, research, past recommendations



Questions?



Public Comment

Hearing from you!