

Meeting Summary for DAI Workgroup Meeting

Feb 20, 2025 12:54 PM Central Time

Quick recap

The meeting focused on the importance of data in decision-making and improving services for children and families in Illinois. Participants discussed the need for a well-aligned data system, shared their experiences with using data, and emphasized the connection between data and equity. The group reviewed their achievements to date, including developing guiding principles and identifying strategic areas of work, and discussed ongoing projects such as data discovery and metric prioritization to support the new agency's goals.

Next steps

- Current facilitator taking new role at IDEC and will identify and onboard in a new facilitator for future DAI Workgroup meetings.
- DAI Workgroup members to send Facilitator suggestions or ideas for the new facilitator.
- Facilitator to remove the March DAI Workgroup meeting from the calendar due to Spring Break.
- Facilitator to continue the work of refining and prioritizing key metrics for the new agency to consider on day one.
- DAI Workgroup to discuss and potentially develop an annual dashboard or report card to show progress in early childhood initiatives.
- Facilitator to share updates on the Data Discovery project as it begins.
- DAI Workgroup to review and provide input on the Data Discovery project findings, particularly regarding data gaps and needs.
- Facilitator to explore incorporating CCR&R, Head Start, and INCCRRA workforce data into the Data Discovery process.

Summary

DAI Workgroup Meeting Introduction and Plans

Facilitator welcomed the DAI Workgroup members and public attendees to the meeting. She expressed her excitement to be with the group and mentioned that the meeting would be a bit different from previous ones, offering a breather after their hard work to date.

Facilitator also introduced Secretary, who would be sharing her vision and thoughts on data. The meeting was set to include a round of introductions, a refresher on the group's accomplishments, and a discussion on future plans. Facilitator also encouraged public comments and reserved time for them at the end of the meeting.

Data's Role in Decision-Making and Services

The meeting was primarily about the importance of data in decision-making and its role in improving services for children and families. Facilitator emphasized the need for data to ensure better outcomes and to validate experiences of priority populations. The participants shared their personal experiences and roles in using data to make decisions and improve services. One Workgroup member highlighted the importance of data in planning for the future, while others emphasized the need for data-driven decisions. Another stressed the importance of access to data and ownership of family data. Pam and Others joined in and discussed the role of data in evaluating strengths and weaknesses and providing cohesive services. More talked about the power of data in validating experiences and teasing through trends. Additional Workgroup members emphasized the use of data to assess success and make necessary changes. After listening to Workgroup members, Secretary thanked everyone for their consistent participation and shared her vision for IDEC. The Secretary highlighted that data can validate people's lived experiences and help make informed decisions. She also shared her vision for Illinois to become the best state in the country to raise a family with young children. She stressed the need for a well-aligned data system and architecture to support this vision, and to ensure equitable services across race and geography. Finally she announced that a new Chief Data Officer would be joining the IDEC leadership team.

Working Group Reflections

Facilitator highlighted the group's achievements, including the development of guiding principles and the identification of three strategic areas of work: a family portal, a provider interface, and an early childhood integrated data system (ECIDS). Facilitator acknowledged the team's hard work, particularly in completing lengthy surveys and redlining documents. She re-introduced the Child Trends framework as a starting point for their data collection, emphasizing its focus on the family and child experience. The Workgroup has begun adapting this framework to an Illinois context, with the next steps to be discussed.

Facilitator also mentioned the need for a data discovery process, a technology infrastructure, and a data talent infrastructure to support these initiatives.

Workgroup members then discussed the importance of collecting baseline data to show progress to various audiences. They also talked about the Data Discovery project, which involves crosswalking existing data with potential future data elements and mandated reporting requirements and should include data from various sources, including legacy agencies, Head Start, and INCCRRA. The group agreed to continue their discussions and to find a new facilitator for their next meeting.

Attendees

Elizabeth Smith, Illinois ECCS
Abby Snow
ISBE-Alicia Lynch-Deatherage
Chrissi Guarnieri
Viviana Deltas
Kathleen Kimmey
Rowan Atwood
Evelyn Osorio
Meg Helder
Hannah Miro
Edie Washington
Janice Moenster
Maya Portillo
Marcy Mendenhall
Bob Goerge
Teresa Ramos
Aressa Coley
Lori Orr
Pam Franks
Maia Connors
Cathy Mannen
A Ballard
Jean Davis
Nisha Sanghvi
Marcy Mendenhall
Beata Skorusa