

# Illinois Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding

## February 11, 2020

### Meeting Minutes

#### Introductions, Charge, Work to Date (12:00 – 12:20PM)

After taking roll, Senator Manar provided an overview of the Commission's charge and goals.

Deputy Governor Ruiz then reminded everyone of the guiding principles, the timeline, and the working groups structure and purpose.

#### Updates from Working Groups (12:20 – 12:55PM)

George Davis introduced the working groups, then requested working group leaders provide a summary of their work to date.

Jodi Scott (co-chair with Rey Gonzalez) provided an overview for the Funding Adequacy Working Group.

- The first working group meeting was spent primarily going through the existing cost model, identifying key drivers to get to the number.
- It was noted that current funding is not aligned with the Commission's Guiding Principles.
- Next steps are to finish immersing in cost modeling done to date and begin to make decisions around key assumptions.
- There was then discussion on the working group's charge:
  - It was noted that the Funding Adequacy working group will be charged with proposing priorities as funding rolls out, and that this would be informed by stakeholder engagement
  - It was noted that there needs to be a periodic process to continue to refine over years of roll-out
  - It was also noted that this will take time as infrastructure and capacity issues are worked through
  - It was noted to make the group's charge questions clearer to reflect the above.

Robin Steans (working group chair) provided an overview for the Management & Oversight Working Group.

- The goal of this group is to determine how we set up a more efficient and effective system aligned with the Commission's Guiding Principles
- In the first meeting, members validated work plan, looked at current structures, and created a decision framework defining alignment with guiding principles
- The next step will involve synthesizing research and begin developing requirements of the future system
- There were no questions.

Elliot Regenstein (working group chair) provided an overview for the Funding Mechanism Working Group.

- In the first meeting, members validated work plan, looked at current structures, and created a decision framework defining alignment with the Commission's Guiding Principles
- It was noted that this group is looking at how funding flows from senders to recipients and is closely aligned with the Management & Oversight Working Group
- It was noted that this group is taking into account some of the funds that do not go through the state (Head Start and Early Head Start is most prominent), and therefore for these funds the state generally does not have control over where funding goes or how much goes to which recipients

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- There was a question on how start-up/incubation funding will be considered in this. It was noted that if funding only flows to available capacity there may be an unintended consequence of widening the equity gap. Discussion followed on how this is being thought about across working groups. Who is responsible for that work? In some states it's the State, in others it's community organizations.

Pat Chamberlain (working group chair) provided an overview for the Inclusion Working Group.

- It was noted that this group is focusing on Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education and will inform the work of all three other working groups
- In the first meeting, members validated work plan, looked at current structures and mechanisms as well as current cost modeling, and created a decision framework defining alignment with the Commission's Guiding Principles.

#### **Stakeholder Engagement Planning (12:55 – 1:45PM)**

Co-chair Barbara Flynn Currie noted the importance of stakeholder engagement in the formation of this Commission, and that stakeholder engagement must continue. She noted that this work will be successful if ECEC advocates, providers, and families feel heard, valued, respected, prioritized, and involved in the Commission's work, and they see their perspectives and recommendations for change reflected in the Commission's information gathering, deliberations, final recommendations, and blueprint for change.

The Commission was asked to break into groups to discuss inputs into developing a full stakeholder engagement plan. Commentary will be included in a draft stakeholder engagement plan to be brought back to Commissioners in a future communication. Members of the public were invited to share thoughts via written notes.

It was noted that much engagement has already been done through various outlets, and that these should be incorporated before asking for more input. It was determined there is a three-part path forward:

- Draw up a draft stakeholder engagement plan based on what was discussed in today's meeting
- Review existing information and incorporate
- Determine next steps to solicit stakeholder input based on this

#### **Next Steps & Meeting 4 Objectives (1:45-1:50PM)**

Senator Manar reiterated the upcoming meeting dates and timeline. He shared next steps.

#### **Public Comment (1:50-2:10PM)**

Eight members of the public provided public comment for the Commission to consider.