

## **Illinois Early Learning Council**

**June 18, 2018, 11am-2pm**

Roosevelt University, Wabash Building Room 418, 425 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60605

Conference Line: 888-494-4032, Access code: 6113045703

Chicago: Emily Bastedo, Karen Berman, Donna Emmons, Gaylord Gieseke, Tasha Green Cruzat, Diane Grigsby Jackson, Dan Harris, Dr. Jamilah Jor'dan, Janice Moenster, Theresa Nihill, Sara Slaughter, Luz Maria Solis, Dr. Cynthia Tate, Sheridan Turner, Judith Walker-Kendrick, Josie Yanguas

Phone: Lynn Burgett, Cerathel Burnett, Andrea Chua, George Davis, Kristy Doan, Vicki Hodges, Madelyn James, Cathy Mannen, Carolyn Newbury Schwartz, Sessy Nyman, Andrea Palmer, Maria Whelan

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions – Emily Bastedo and Dr. Cynthia Tate**

Emily Bastedo welcomed everyone to Roosevelt University. She thanked everyone for coming and thanked Roosevelt for their continued partnership.

Dr. Tate asked that everyone introduce themselves, starting with the Council members in the room, the Council members on the phone, the non-members in the room, and the non-members on the phone.

Emily Bastedo asked for a motion for the approval of the February minutes. Sheridan Turner asked that she be added as present on the phone at the February 26, 2019 meeting. With that change, the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

#### **2. State Department Updates**

##### **GOV - Emily Bastedo**

Emily Bastedo gave an update on the recently passed state budget, which included: a \$350 million addition to a new funding formula for K-12, an additional \$50 million for the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), and the funding of 12-month eligibility. Emily noted that this was a busy session; there are currently 600 bills on their way to the Governor's desk. She reminded the Council members to reach out if there are bills they support or are concerned about because now is the time they're making recommendations to sign/veto.

##### **DHS - Director Diane Grigsby Jackson**

Director Grigsby Jackson began with an update on the child care state plan, noting that our federal partners have extended the timeframe for submittal until August 31<sup>st</sup>. DHS is continuing to go through feedback from the public comments and is taking the plan back before the Child Care Advisory Council at a meeting that was scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup>; that date has been changed to June 29<sup>th</sup>. Director Grigsby Jackson noted that DHS received \$75 million from the federal government (child care budget) to spend over a 2-year period. The Governor's budget included an additional \$25 million for child care. In this legislative session there are three bills of note that could impact the child care program, one being HB4965 on 12-month eligibility. DHS will be implementing this change, effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. New clients October 1st will have 12-month eligibility. Current clients will be given 12-month eligibility upon redetermination. Another piece of noteworthy legislation: HB4885 would allow families with children

under 5 years old that have an intact families active case with DCFS to be eligible for child care assistance. The third bill of interest is HB3342 on the 4.62% rate increase for childcare providers. DHS is preparing their systems to make adjustments; they have 30 days after the bill is signed to make the changes effective. Director Grigsby Jackson informed the Council that DHS is also monitoring the health and safety requirements for providers in a child care program. The data is showing a lag in the mandatory reporting training and CPR training; DHS is developing strategies to help move providers farther along.

#### **GOECD – Dr. Cynthia Tate**

Dr. Tate stated that the workforce group of the Children’s Cabinet was one of original projects now in a continuation phase working on dual-enrollment and dual-credit. The number of high school students with ECE Level 1 credentials has increased across the state. GOECD is working on SB1829 with the Latino Policy Forum and the Ounce. GOECD applied for and received a National Governor’s Association Award to work on the compensation issue. GOECD also recently partnered on a breakfast event with Erikson Institute’s Policy and Leadership Department, featuring speakers from the National Academy of Medicine, who spoke about financing in early childhood.

Dr. Tate gave an update on the Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee: There is legislation that required organizations to make recommendations on best practices for transitioning from PreK and other ECE programs to kindergarten. There have been 6 panels convened thus far. The report is due to the legislature in September. Dr. Tate then transitioned to an update on the Pyramid Model. Seventeen public/private agencies make up a statewide leadership team that has been organized into workgroups. The PDG supplemental grant supported implementation with the expansion sites: 23 of the 28 expansion sites have voluntarily signed on to the Pyramid Model, demonstrating the desire for social/emotional supports.

Dr. Tate and Emily Bastedo spoke briefly about the additional Children’s Cabinet projects: the project with dually involved youth in DCFS and DJJ; the DJJ mentorship project; and the math project headed by ICCB to address the issue of kids at community college who are not able to take full credit courses. Director Grigsby Jackson spoke about the data assessment project with DHS and the Department of Employment Security; they are looking at the impact of child care subsidies on increasing the self-sufficiency of their clients. Emily Bastedo noted that the most recent Children’s Cabinet meeting was the first since the projects were selected. The next meeting in September will focus on goals, data, where want to see needle move, etc. She will keep the Council updated.

#### **ISBE – Amanda Elliot**

Amanda Elliot gave an update on the status of the ECBG. The RFP was posted, awards were scored winter/early spring, applicants have received emails regarding their funding status, applicants can appeal the process not the score, the appeal window closes today via mail, ISBE has 14 days to respond and 60 days to process appeals, to date most appeals are from PI applicants. Emily Bastedo noted that Superintendent Smith released a memo regarding how the funding decisions were made and asked Amanda if he would come talk to this group about it. Amanda said she would pass along the request.

### **3. Workforce Report – Joellyn Whitehead**

Dr. Tate introduced Joellyn Whitehead, Director of Data and Research at INCCRRA, to give an update on the 2017 Illinois Early Childhood Workforce Report. Responding to questions identified by the ELC in the

research agenda, Joellyn provided updates on the active membership in the Gateways Registry, demographics of membership, bilingual professionals in the field, the completion of college education among the workforce (and how it varies by region and impacts wages), a comparison of educational qualifications for teachers of 0-3 to teachers of 3-5, and additional topics INCCRRA plans to explore in the future. Dr. Cynthia Tate noted that this report will be posted to the GOECD website.

#### **4. Break**

#### **5. Committee Reports**

##### **Quality Committee – Dan Harris and Teri Talan**

Dan Harris stated that the next Quality Committee meeting will be July 31<sup>st</sup>. The ExceleRate subcommittee had its first meeting May 17th to establish goals and a workplan; they meet again next Thursday. Dan Harris then gave a brief update on SB1829: it passed both chambers unanimously and is on GOVs desk as of last week. Thanks to all who helped work on it.

##### **Home Visiting Taskforce – Gaylord Gieseke and Diana Rauner**

Gaylord Gieseke reported that the summit on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Peoria was well attended by Illinois state agency leads, as well as the first ladies of Alaska and Delaware. The pilot offering all newborns home visiting services in a given community fostered great discussion about how to get everyone collaborating to take the process beyond the pilot. There is growing collaboration between the home visiting and early intervention (EI) systems for which work will continue through summer and fall. Current efforts include how to set up a regional intake system for home visiting, similar to the way the EI system has a regional structure whereby children and families in the state have a single access point. The child welfare project is moving along. The focus is on pregnant and parenting teen wards of the state; this is an extremely mobile population so they're trying to address the challenges in how these families are served. The federal government passed MIECHV funding. Illinois is now funded at a flat rate and will be getting \$8.7 million per year. They are working on another needs assessment and are trying to align it with the public health Title V needs assessment and the Risk and Reach report.

##### **Access Committee – Maria Whelan and George Davis**

Maria Whelan noted that the Family Engagement subcommittee expects recommendations for next steps from the ELC and Executive Committee by this fall. She noted that COFI and Illinois Action jointly released a paper, "No Decisions About Us, Without Us" that highlights the engagement strategies used and the impact they have had on the ongoing collaboration work around state. She will make sure everyone on the Council gets an electronic copy.

Dr. Cynthia Tate transition to IAC report, noting that we have additional time to discuss the ECBG because we are no longer having the racial equity presentation from Dr. Ray today.

##### **Integration & Alignment Committee (IAC) – Shauna Ejeh and Karen Berman**

Karen Berman noted that the Data, Research, and Evaluation (DRE) subcommittee is reexamining the research agenda they put together a few years ago; they're working with all the committees of the Council to determine which items are still relevant, see what has been accomplished, and set new

research priorities in early childhood. The Health committee is meeting again soon. Their aim is to address what the health community can do (operationally and not theoretically) to promote enrollment in high-quality learning programs. The role of the Community Systems Development subcommittee is imperative now that we have lessons learned from the ECBG process about what it takes to make community systems part of our infrastructure across the state. The Inclusion subcommittee attended the Inclusion Policy Summit and will soon have a report to share with the ELC. They made progress in improving inclusion in early childhood but there is more work to be done.

Shauna Ejeh gave an update on the ECBG. Money has been awarded. There is a lot of concern around the way the funding was distributed. The rubric and amounts did not match application process. Our goal was to elevate the quality and funding of communities with extensive need; we're not sure if that happened to the degree we hoped. Karen Berman noted that the Ounce is putting together a FOIA request so ISBE releases additional information. Council members expressed a desire to see the trends and themes for those denied and would like to see what areas of the state did not send in any applications (broken down by race, ethnicity, region, etc.).

Amanda Elliot from ISBE noted that all scores have been posted on ISBE's website. Amanda Elliot asked that before the FOIA is submitted Karen Berman and Shauna Ejeh send her a list of questions so she can determine what information ISBE can share without having to go through the FOIA process. Karen Berman noted that in addition to the FOIA request, she and the advocates are collecting stories from the ground about how the award allocations are playing out across communities. She asked the Council to please email those local stories to her.

## **6. Announcements**

A Council member asked that the ELC write a letter to Congress regarding the situation at the nation's border. Dr. Cynthia Tate noted that we would need a motion and a second. Luz Maria Solis made a motion for the ELC to write a letter to our Senators and State Representatives letting them know that we are totally against family separation at the border. Sylvia Puente seconded the motion. Dr. Cynthia Tate called for a vote. The vote in support of the motion was unanimous.

A member of the public announced that Healthy Chicago 2.0 is sending out a resource guide for physicians on developmental and behavioral health screenings that was created by EverThrive and the Legal Council for Health Justice. The resource guide will be sent to the ELC for distribution.

## **7. Adjourn**

Emily Bastedo asked if there was anyone who wanted to make a Public Comment. There was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.