



Illinois Department of Early Childhood

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Funding Design Workgroup

Meeting #3: January 22, 2024

Welcome!

Meeting expectations for Workgroup Members:

- **Please be on video** as much as possible
- **Mute self** when not speaking
- Use **Chat feature** or **“raise hand” button** for questions or comments
- Technical issues can happen to anyone – **chat privately to Liz Garza for any needs**
- If you are experiencing an unstable connection - **switch to phone call or close other applications**

Please introduce yourself in the chat and share:

- Your name
- Where you are from
- The organization/perspective you represent in this conversation

Notes Regarding this Meeting

- **Workgroup meetings are open to the public**
- **Members of public can provide input through public comment**
 - The last five minutes of Workgroup meetings will be reserved for public comment, public participants can use the “raise hand” feature to join the line
 - Additional comments may be sent in writing or shared at IDEC's Bimonthly Listening session, held every other month
 - During breakout groups, members of the public can contribute via Padlet (https://padlet.com/ssmillie2/funding_design_wg_mtg3_public)
 - An input/feedback form will be shared in chat
 - Workgroup members can expect a summary of public input prior to each meeting
- **This meeting has Spanish translation**

Workgroup Meeting 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

Today's Goals

- ✓ Continue to learn about how funding design challenges impact families in the ECE system
- ✓ Connect challenges families face to providers' experiences with early childhood funding
- ✓ Build connections between provider experiences and funding design

Agenda:

Welcome & Introduction	10 min
Family spotlight	10 min
Provider panel	50 min
Small group discussions	15 min
Public comment, next steps & adjourn	5 min

Purpose of the Funding Design Workgroup

The Funding Design Workgroup will **advise on the design and use of ECEC funding to promote equitable and inclusive access to quality services** that meet the needs of children and families, with a **particular focus on investment prioritization and system sustainability.**

Specifically, the Funding Design Workgroup will:

- Provide insight on tradeoffs and how to order funding priorities
- Recommend opportunities to improve existing challenges and build on successes
- Raise concerns about implementation and potential unintended consequences

Updated Funding Design Goals

GOALS: Develop a funding design for Illinois' early childhood education and care programs that:



Promotes an **equitable, inclusive, family-centered system** of quality choice for families of all races, home languages, incomes, and geographies



Works toward **fair resources for all types of providers**, responsive to family choice



Supports **opportunity, fair compensation, and high-quality working conditions** for the ECEC workforce



Improves **predictability** and **stability for families, providers, and the workforce**

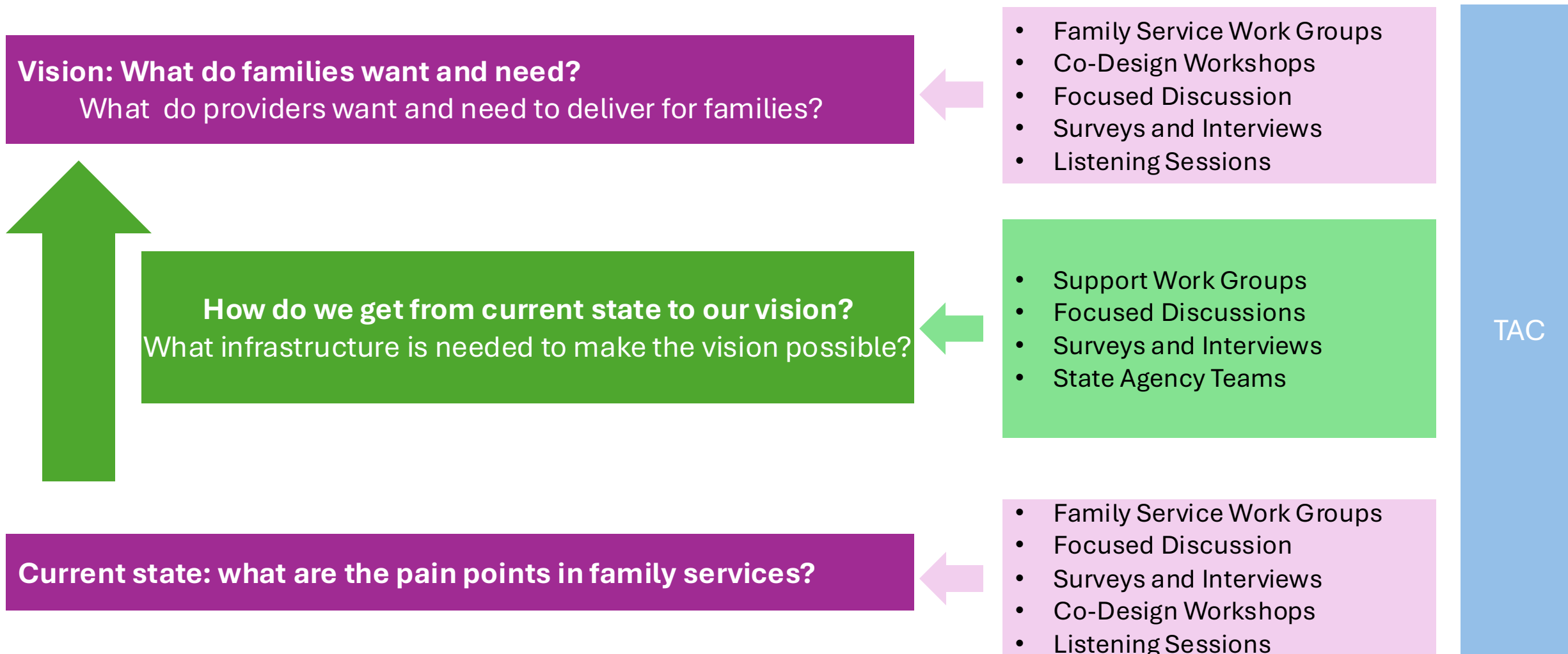


Reduces complexity and burden on ECEC providers

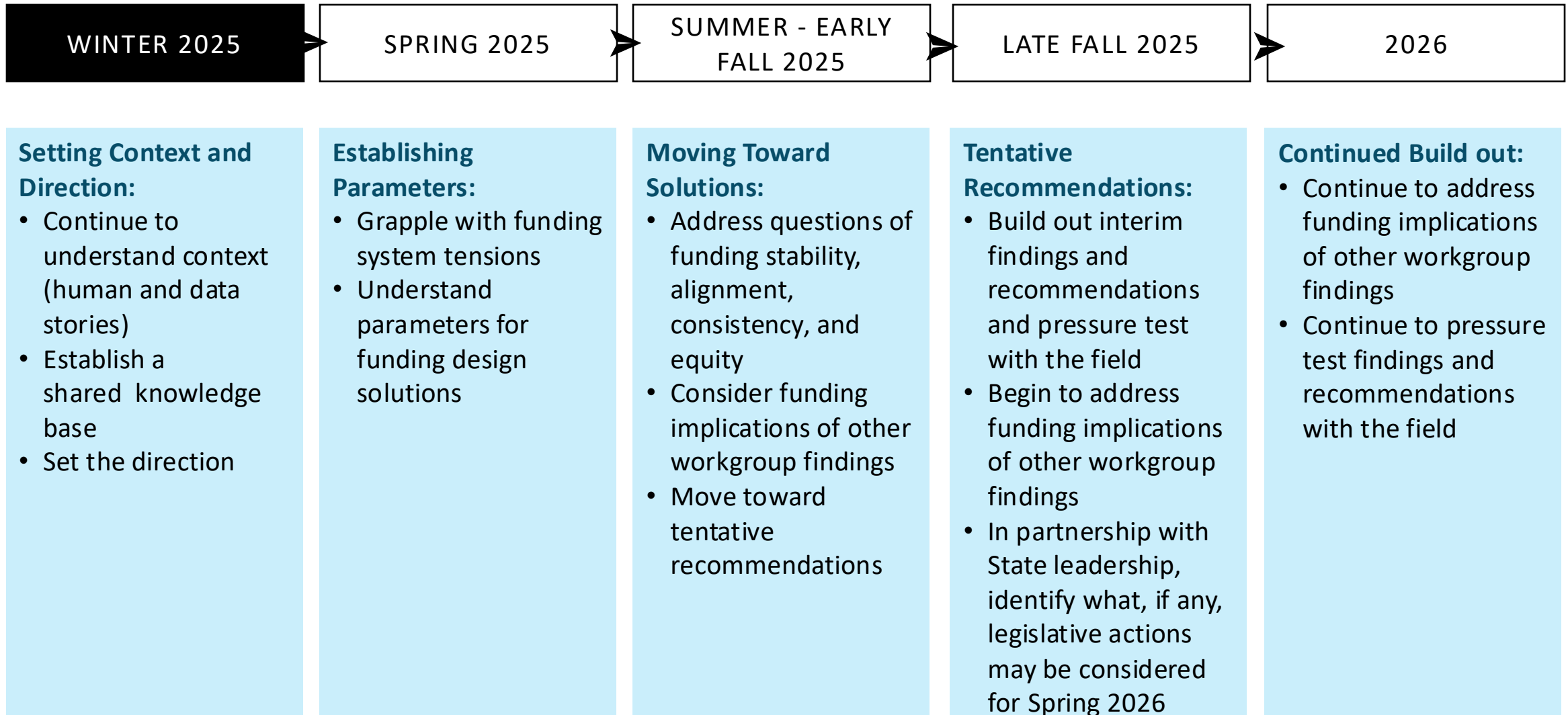


Promotes long-term **system-wide sustainability** through clear and balanced priorities and effective use of all available funds (federal, state, local, and private)

Workgroup Process and Roles



Direction of Funding Design



Possible Discussion Topics

- Topics that other workgroups are examining will be slated for later in the year to give an opportunity to incorporate their findings
- Other topics may arise through this group's discussions

EARLIER TOPICS

Funding Stability, Alignment, and Consistency

- Sustainability of business models
- Program funding alignment (i.e. Layered Funders)
- Administrative burden
- Accountability & Reporting

Funding Tensions to Balance

- Benefits, challenges and unintended consequences of funding cost of services (cost modeling)
- Competition process vs formula
- Prioritizing broad access vs. intensive supports

Equitable Access to Funding

- Fair funding across settings
- Set asides (Chicago, Infant/Toddler)
- Service deserts and new program incubation

LATER TOPICS

Workforce Compensation, Development, and Support

- Wage scales and pay parity across settings
- Benefits
- Funding for professional development

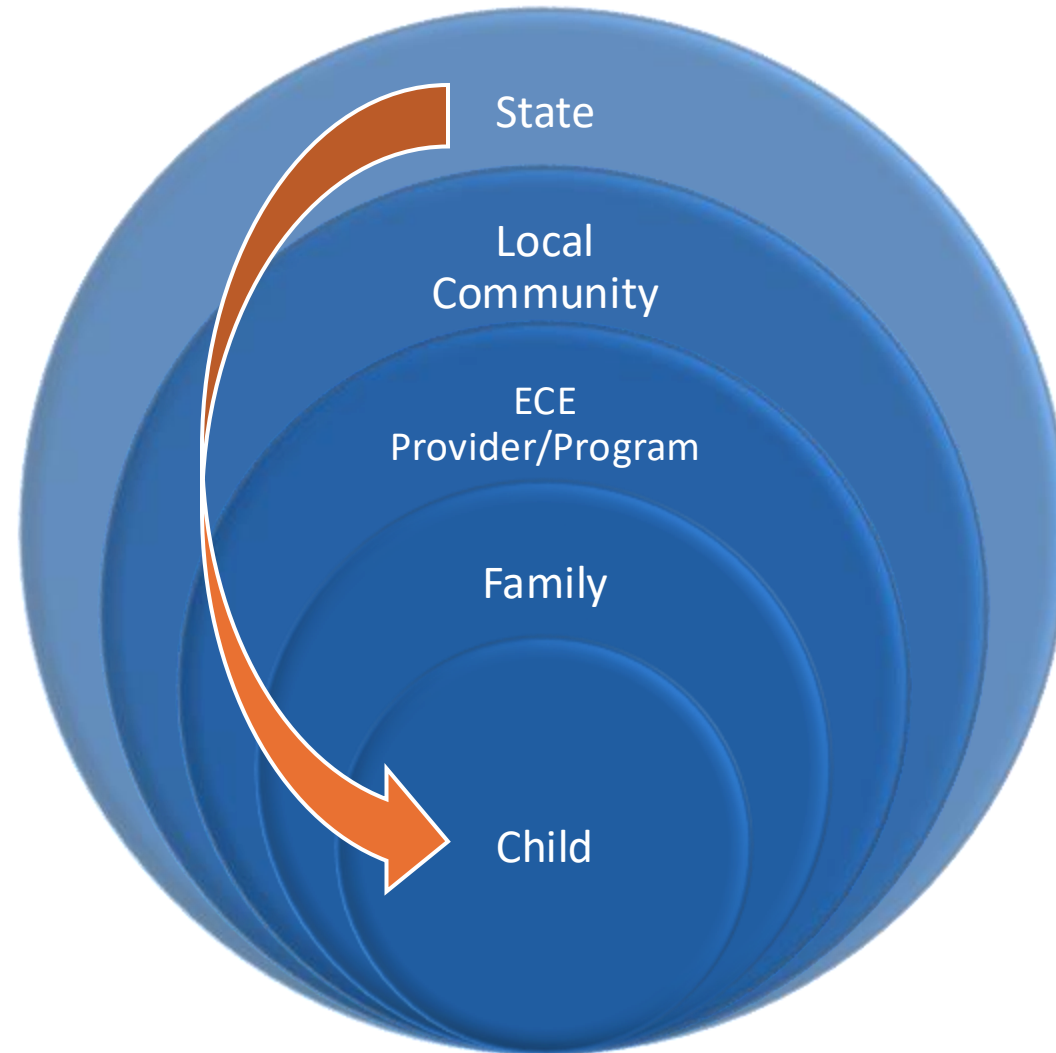
Funding for Quality and Inclusion

- Funding for children with special needs
- Funding for multi-lingual learners
- Alignment of funding to quality factors (e.g. ratio/group size, teacher qualifications)

Governance Implications

- Role of Intermediaries in funding allocations and distribution

State level policies impact communities, providers, and ultimately the family and child experience.





Priscilla Bahena

Early Childhood Provider Panel

Goals of the panel:

- to learn about how different programs access early childhood funding
- to understand what panelists appreciate about the current funding system
- to hear providers' perspective on how funding could be structured to better serve families

Early Childhood Provider Panel

Moderator: Erika Mendez, Latino Policy Council

Panelists:

- **Grace Araya**, President of Concordia Place, Chicago, IL
- **Lee Eklund**, Owner of Malones Early Learning Center, Carterville, IL
- **Minerva Garcia Sanchez**, Superintendent of District 428, DeKalb, IL
- **Elizabeth Martel**, Former family Child Care Home Provider, Chicago, IL
- **Marcy Mendenhall**, Chief Executive Officer of SAL Family and Community Services, Moline, IL

Breakout Discussion



Based on what you heard, what should we maintain as we update the current early childhood funding system?

Out of everything the panelists discussed, what is most important for this funding design workgroup to focus on?

What additional questions do you have about what was discussed?

Small groups in session. Meeting will resume momentarily.



Press Release - Gov. Pritzker Signs SB1

ILGA Public Act 103-0594

Public participants may also use this time to:
Explore the Early Childhood Transition website
▪ <https://idec.illinois.gov/>

Notes from small group discussions will be included in the Workgroup minutes and posted on the Transition website.

Public Participants are encouraged to use this time to respond to discussion questions via Padlet. To add a comment, click the “+” icon underneath the prompt or question you want to respond to, type your comment and then hit “Publish”.

Spanish

https://padlet.com/ssmillie2/funding_design_wg_mtg3_spanish



English

https://padlet.com/ssmillie2/funding_design_wg_mtg3_public





Full Group Share-out:

A representative from each group will share key takeaways from their conversation.

Public Comment

To join the line to
provide public
comment, please raise
your hand via Zoom.



Next Steps & Close



- Post-meeting survey
 - For all participants
 - For workgroup members, questions to help inform future scheduling
- Upcoming meeting – Wednesday, February 26th

Thank you!