

Integration & Alignment Committee, Illinois Early Learning Council
Minutes – September 27, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

In Attendance

CO-CHAIRS: Shauna Ejeh and Trish Rooney

Facilitator: Wendy McCullough

GOECD staffing support: Iryna Labazevych

Tranae Brockhouse, CCRR Director, SDA 15, non-member

Steve Akins AOK Wabash/Edwards

Jenny Garinger, Child Care Resource Service

ELC member; Marcy Mendenhall SAL Community Services

Brenda Lee Smith SAL Child Care Connection CCR&R Central Illinois, non-member

Linda Rios: All Our Kids Network: Cicero, IL

Bethany Patten, IDHS, Committee member

Lori Orr, IDHS/DEC. Guest.

Maureen Sollars

Tina Lopez SDA 2 Sitting in for Kim Lamz

Cicely Fleming, Birth to Five Illinois

Naomi Black, Start Early, guest

CJ Gandam AOK Network Coordinator for DuPage County Health Department. Committee member

Courtney Hill, FAC parent

Erica Romines, CCRR Director, SDA 13, non-member

Brynn Seibert, SEIU, Committee member

Heidi Elliott, Brightpoint CCR&R, SDA14, non-member - here for Janice Moenster

Berenice Martinez, Advance Illinois, Guest.

Maureen Sollars, McLean County AOK Network, guest

Denise Monnier Association of Illinois Montessori Schools, ELC Committee member

Dianna Saelens, Birth to Five Illinois Region 28 (Bureau, Henry & Stark), Guest

Kristy Doan, IL State Board of Education, ELC Member

Angela Herrington SDA7 guest

Robin Steans, Advance Illinois, ELC Member and member of IAC

Lynn Burgett - The Center: Early Childhood Professional Learning

Autumn Glass AOK Network Family Engagement Specialist Rock Island County

Leah Pouw, University of Illinois / AOK Networks

Lauri Morrison-Frichtl, IL Head Start, ELC I & A Committee member

Lisa Bock, CCR&R Director, SDA 1 non-member

Janet Vargas, Illinois Action for Children, non-member

Keven Kerr, Regional Council Manager, Birth to Five Illinois (Will County)

Marla Willard, CCR&R Director SDA 12 - guest

Courtney Long, AOK Coordinator Tri-County, guest

Nicole Bach, Birth to Five Illinois: Region 44 (McHenry County). Non-member

Lou Ann Hayes, Birth to Five Region 8 guest

Donna Emmons, IHSA, Guest.

Carmen Garcia, Irving Harris Foundation, guest

Brianna Birkla, AOK Wabash/Edwards, at Wabash County Health Department, guest

Bridget English, Birth to Five Illinois Region 1, guest

Lakeesha Smith FAC Parent
Karen Berman, Start Early
Ann Oswald, Birth to Five Illinois, Regional Council Manager Region 12
Michelle Ramirez, All Our Kids Network Cicero, Family Engagement Specialist.
Jessica Lovera-Matter, Rock Island AOK Coordinator, guest
Arielle Jones, Will County AOK Network, Family Engagement Specialist, guest
Deyanira Cabrera, DuPage All Our Kids Family Engagement Specialist
Leslie McKinily, Chicago Public Schools
Bryan Stokes II, McCormick Foundation
Samantha McDavid, DeKalb County ROE/DeKalb County Collaborative for Young Children, Coordinator of Early Learning Programs
Kim Peterson, Director of Community Health, Kane County Health Department
Valerie Varju, Regional Council Manager: Region 19, Birth to Five Illinois
Keppen Clanton, Regional Council Manager, Region 40, Birth to Five Illinois

Welcome and Introductions

Trish Rooney did the welcome, read the Racial Equity Definition, and reviewed the committee scope and priorities.

Priority Recap: goals, scope, and directional recommendations

Wendy McCullough reviewed the prior work on priority #1, which is the focus of today - Review the functions of ROEs, B-5 Action Councils, CCR&Rs and other regional intermediaries to identify efficacies, efficiencies, and alignments for T&TA, supports, resource and referral, including supply and demand analysis, etc.

Committee input included:

- Marcy Mendenhall noted that the ROE was missing from the updated recommendation-Wendy noted it was an oversight and she will add it back
- Karen Berman-noted that some of the recommendations apply to a subset of the identified regional entities and some apply to all. It would help to denote which entities are included in each recommendation.
- Kim Peterson noted that KU has developer capacity for IRIS
- Rebecca Anderson-noted in the chat that IRIS enables a warm handoff

Break into working groups

Wendy McCullough provided instructions for the breakout sessions. Committee moved into 3 breakout groups (self-selected):

1. Aligned Governance and Systems (host: Shauna)
2. Integrated Intake & Referral (host: Wendy)
3. Shared Community Development (host: Trish)

The committee did individual brainstorming during the breakout, sharing thoughts on a Jamboard using stickies. This brainstorm focused on 2 questions:

1. How do these recommendations get us to our impact goals? What does this look like in practice (success indicators)?
2. What are implementation considerations to ensure a smooth and successful transition?

Breakout debrief

There was a short debrief of the discussion had in each breakout group, which included a few key themes or ideas from the brainstorming. After committee breakout sharing, the committee moved to voting on the directional recommendations proposed.

IAC Voting Results for Regional Intermediaries Directional Recommendation from the Webex Meeting Chat-9/27/23

Karen Berman, yes

YEA- Marcy Mendenhall

Bryan Stokes II - yes

Denise Monnier yes

Bethany Patten-Yes

Trish Rooney, Yes

Lauri Morrison-Frichtl, YES

Shauna Ejeh-Yes

Brynn Seibert, yes

For Robin Steans – Yes

Kristina Doan, abstain

Present, Non Voting:

Denise Monnier

Laurie Morrison-Frichtl

Next steps and additional stakeholder engagement

Wendy McCullough shared the next steps for this priority, which included:

- Reviewing the directional recommendations with the field again – the stakeholders who provided input into to shape these recommendations via listening sessions last Spring: FAC, ECEC providers, staff of regional intermediaries, including: CCR&R, CFC, LIC, B-5 IL, CI and AOK Networks.
- Summarizing the conversation from today to include in final report and sharing this back with IAC for additional comment.
- Preparing to present directional recommendations to ELC Executive Committee and begin drafting the final report.

- Preparing for the next IAC meeting, which will be on December 4th, 2023 where we will review stakeholder feedback on directional recommendations and discuss next steps for this committee.

Public Comment and Announcements

Trish Rooney invited public comment. No comments were made beyond the discussion already held. There were no announcements.

Meeting was adjourned 3:37p.m.