

# IL Early Learning Council- Integration & Alignment Committee

April 2023



Governor's Office of  
Early Childhood Development

# Welcome, Introduction & Review of Agenda

**Presenters: ELC Integration and Alignment Committee Co-chairs  
Shauna Ejuh and Bethany Patten**

# April Agenda

- ❑ Welcome
- ❑ Racial Equity Definition & Priorities
- ❑ Committee Charge & Priorities
- ❑ PDG B-5 Models Development for ECD Inclusion Update
- ❑ Early Childhood Block Grant Update/RFP Overview
- ❑ Analysis of Regional Intermediaries
- ❑ Public Comments & Announcements
- ❑ Closing Comments and Adjourn

# Racial Equity Definition

**Racial Equity Definition:** A racially equitable society values and embraces all racial/ethnic identities. In such a society, one's racial/ethnic identity (particularly Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Asian) is not a factor in an individual's ability to prosper. An early learning system that is racially equitable is driven by data and ensures that:

- Every young child and family regardless of race, ethnicity, and social circumstance has everything s/he/they need to develop optimally;
- Resources, opportunities, rewards, and burdens are fairly distributed across groups and communities so that those with the greatest challenges are adequately supported and not further disadvantaged; and
- Systems and policies are designed, reframed, or eliminated to promote greater justice for children and families.

## Racial Equity Priorities:

- 1) Align and standardize race/ethnicity data collection and reporting;
- 2) Evaluate and identify whether processes for distributing resources exacerbate racial disparities, including agency contracting;
- 3) Address race/ethnicity disparities in terms of workforce compensation and advancement;
- 4) Eliminate racial/ethnic disparities for children participating in all programs that contribute to school readiness and life success by addressing racial disparities in enrollment in preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and in prenatal to age 3 services.

# Integration and Alignment Committee

## Charge & Priorities

### Charge:

Support efforts to continuously improve delivery of ECEC services equitably and in a seamless way for children & families, including supporting efforts to improve governance.

### Priorities:

1. Review 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.
2. Review/provide feedback for cost modeling consultation to address Early Childhood Special Education services, as well as costs for supportive infrastructure. This will support preschool-aged children with disabilities within inclusive environments across the mixed delivery system (CBOs, Schools, Head Start).

# **PDG B-5 Models Development for ECD Inclusion-Update**

Presenter: Kristy Doan, Public Consulting Group

# **Early Childhood Block Grant-Update/Overview of RFP Process**

Presenters: Jason Helfer, Illinois State Board of Education, Deputy Director of Instructional Education and Carisa Hurley Davis, Illinois State Board of Education-Director of Early Childhood

# **Analysis of Regional Intermediaries**

**Presenter: Wendy McCullough, IDHS Consultant**



# Recap Priority 1

## In our last meeting we...

- ▶ Learned more about Illinois early childhood regional intermediaries in advance of Preschool Development Grant award
  - ▶ Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
  - ▶ Regional Offices of Education
  - ▶ Birth to Five Illinois
  - ▶ Child and Family Connections Offices
  - ▶ Early Childhood Collaborations
  - ▶ All Our Kids Networks

# Introducing our new Priority Facilitator



## Wendy McCullough

- ▶ Independent Consultant
- ▶ 17 years of Management Consulting experience, including:
  - ▶ McKinsey & Company
  - ▶ Civic Consulting Alliance
- ▶ 4 years focus on ECEC
  - ▶ Cross-sector collaborations
  - ▶ Strategic planning
  - ▶ Operations/Systems improvement
- ▶ Mother of 2 young girls

Contact: [Wendy.McCullough@illinois.gov](mailto:Wendy.McCullough@illinois.gov)

# Project Timeline

DRAFT

Phase 1: Agree on scope and goals

Phase 2: Gather information and perspectives

Phase 3: Formulate and prioritize options

Phase 4: Form recommendation

<b>Period</b>	January-April	May-July	August-September	October-December
<b>IAC meetings</b>	April 17, 2023	July 10, 2023	September 7, 2023	December 4, 2023
<b>Key activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decide on intermediaries to include</li><li>• Identify impact areas / desired outcomes</li><li>• Develop facilitation model and work plan</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review functions / create crosswalk</li><li>• Conduct focus groups and interviews</li><li>• Summarize overlapping infrastructure and stakeholder feedback</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outline alignment / integration options to consider</li><li>• Develop decision model; prioritize options</li><li>• Design approach to analyze options based on decision model</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyze options</li><li>• Collect stakeholder feedback on options</li><li>• Develop recommendation</li></ul>

# Discussion questions for today

1. How do we want this work to improve the experience for different stakeholders?
2. Which ECEC regional intermediaries are in scope?
3. What do we want to compare and contrast between these regional intermediaries (expanding on the IAFC crosswalk)?
4. How do we want to engage stakeholders in this process?

# Q1: How do we want this work to improve the experience for different stakeholders?

## EXAMPLES

- Simplify navigation, including referral and eligibility process
- Faster, more efficient access to services
- Increase consistency



Children and Families

- Expand access to professional development, training, and technical assistance
- Enable more referrals between service providers



Service Providers

- Reduce confusion
- Increase and ease collaboration
- Better connect supports to local efforts/needs



Local and Regional Intermediaries

- Increase funding efficacy
- Streamline operations; reduce duplication



State / Governance

## Q2: Which regional intermediaries are in scope?

For the purpose of this work, we define regional intermediary as: A State-funded, regional entity providing a direct service to families and ECEC service providers

- ▶ Regional Offices of Education (ROE) and Intermediate Services Centers (ISC)
- ▶ Community Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R)
- ▶ Birth to Five Illinois Action Council
- ▶ Child and Family Connections Offices (CFCs) (Early Intervention)
- ▶ All Our Kids Early Childhood Networks (AOK Networks)
- ▶ Coordinated Intake (Home Visiting)
- ▶ Early Childhood Collaborations (TBC - in discussion with Community Equity and Access Committee)

# Q3: What do we want to compare and contrast between these regional intermediaries?

Example categories for our crosswalk\*:

- ▶ Purpose; unique value proposition
- ▶ Who they serve (e.g., geography, intended population, capacity)
- ▶ Services offered, including:
  - ▶ Resource and referral
  - ▶ T&TA
  - ▶ Community organizing / action
  - ▶ Data collection / analytics
  - ▶ Others?
- ▶ Formal and informal collaboration / MOUs
- ▶ Funding streams / governance
- ▶ Others?

# Q4: How do we want to engage stakeholders in this process?

DRAFT

Step 1:  
understanding  
current state

Goal	Who	How
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gather information to complete crosswalk</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional intermediaries</li><li>• Subject matter experts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identified point of contact</li><li>• Interviews</li></ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gather diverse perspectives on strengths and pain points</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IAC members</li><li>• Regional intermediaries</li><li>• Community collaborations</li><li>• Service Providers and Families</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interviews/Form</li><li>• Focus groups</li> <li>• TBD</li><li>• FAC/B25/AOK</li></ul>
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Step 2: feedback  
on potential  
recommendation(s)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Solicit feedback from people most impacted by recommendation to inform decision</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional intermediaries</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working session(s) or survey (TBC)</li></ul>
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# Next steps and help needed

- ▶ Share documents with Wendy that could help inform this work; email to [Wendy.McCullough@illinois.gov](mailto:Wendy.McCullough@illinois.gov)
- ▶ Introduce Wendy to Subject Matter Experts for initial interviews
- ▶ Complete a 30-min interview or form to share your perspectives on strengths and pain points; Wendy will email you
- ▶ Recommend a Point of Contact (POC) for each regional intermediary in scope
- ▶ Identify contacts for scheduling focus groups via provider and family representatives' structures (e.g., FAC, B25, AOK)

# Public Comments & Announcements

# Closing Comments and Adjourn

**THANK YOU!**