

Early Childhood Governance Transition Planning

Data, Analytics, and Insights Ad Hoc Workgroup

Meeting Summary for Data, Analytics & Insights Workgroup Kick off meeting

May 16, 2024

Quick recap

The Workgroup discussed the importance of data in informing the new agency's decision-making processes and the need to outline a longer-term strategy to support and promote data use among early childhood parents, providers and administrators as a tool for greater equity. They reviewed the Workgroup's objectives, timeline and composition, which includes over 65% of members representing a provider, parent and/ or workforce perspective. They discussed the importance of starting with a strong Commitment Statement and Guiding Principles to lay a strong foundation for the future Data, Analytics and Insights function of the new Department of Early Childhood. The group discussed alignment with the Transition Advisory Committee (TAC) draft Equity Framework and committed to periodically reviewing their progress against that framework. The Workgroup is set to meet monthly, alternating between morning (nap time) and evening hours, to continue building out the strategy 'building blocks' and also advise on the upcoming data-related implementation needs during the new agency's first year.

Next steps

- The Facilitator will refine the **Commitment Statement** based on the group's feedback and share the updated versions in the next meeting.
- The group will provide input on the **Guiding Principles survey**, which Facilitator will send out for feedback and aim to finalize by early June.
- A TAC member volunteer from the group will present the workgroup's progress and activities at the next **TAC meeting** on May 21st.
- The facilitator will share monthly meeting **calendar invites** through September as soon as possible and the **pre-reads** ahead of the next meeting on June 18th from 5-6pm.

Summary

The meeting began by discussing the **importance of data** in informing the new agency's work and decision-making processes. Workgroup members shared their personal experiences and journeys with data, highlighting its utility in compliance, regulation, strategic thinking, avoiding bias, continuous improvement and research. They appreciated the diverse perspectives brought by its members and the various ways that data can be used.

The Workgroup reviewed the **objectives, composition, and milestones**. While not everyone was available to attend the first meeting, the group is composed of representatives from various perspectives including providers (center, home and school based), parents, educators, early intervention, home visiting, multilingual learning and children with special needs, and will make recommendations for the Data, Analytics and Insights strategy as well as begin advising on implementation considerations as early as 'Day 1' for the new agency in July. The group acknowledged the need to eventually address more technical and / or legal infrastructure issues and to seek input from individuals/ organizations with that specific expertise when necessary.

The Workgroup emphasized the importance of using data as a tool to promote equity and the public good, and discussed the draft **TAC Equity framework** which aims to create an equitable system that serves all children and families. The facilitator asked the group to consider potential **norms** to adopt for a collective mindset shift towards equity. Workgroup

members suggested creating a trust environment and emphasizing the shared end goal of providing quality care for children and families across Illinois. Other workgroup members highlighted the intentionality of the group's creation early in the new agency's planning and their enthusiasm for creating spaces like this for diverse perspectives including parents, educators, and different types of providers.

Workgroup members also shared personal experiences with **challenges with data efforts**. This included experiences where there was concern about sharing data due to potential misuse of data once shared. A Workgroup member recalled a past negative experience with data collection and emphasized the importance of transparency and ensuring data is used positively. Another emphasized the importance of using data not for punishment but as a tool to understand and address inequities, navigating the tension between using data for compliance and for continuous improvement. They underscored the need to name and identify inequities, rather than avoiding them. Given these experiences, Facilitator proposed incorporating a time for sharing personal experiences and lessons learned as a standing agenda item going forward. The group agreed on the need for intentionality in data usage and the value of learning from past experiences.

Facilitator discussed the importance of having a strong, agreed upon **Commitment Statement** and guiding principles for the Data, Analytics, and Insights function in the new EC agency. She presented a draft commitment statement that identified three user groups - families, providers, and administrators - who would benefit from the data. The workgroup provided feedback including using the word 'support' instead of 'help' to better convey the project's objective, reframing the description of 'removing barriers', and providing more specificity on what is meant by 'timely insights.' Facilitator committed to incorporating the feedback and presenting an updated version of the Commitment Statement before the next meeting.

The group agreed on the need for **Guiding Principles** to ensure data is used effectively and equitably. Facilitator led a discussion focusing on gathering input to shape the project's Guiding Principles. With the time remaining, Facilitator asked participants to share any data they use today or wished they had and assured them of multiple future opportunities to provide more input on the emerging Guiding Principles, including at tomorrow's listening session and a follow-up survey. Facilitator committed to send a draft survey by Monday for feedback, aiming to launch it broadly in June. The Facilitator asked for feedback on a survey planned to distribute to inform who benefits and is burdened by early childhood data systems. The Facilitator also asked for TAC volunteers to present the work group's progress at the next TAC meeting. The group will focus the next meeting in June on defining year one implementation priorities and to be 'day one ready'.

Attendance: Angela Ballard, Johnna Darragh, Pamela Franks, Tonya Frehner, Lauri Frichtl, Rochelle Golliday, Felicia Gray, Christina Krasov, Marcy Mendenhall, Janice Moenster, Evelyn Osorio, Angel Powell-Muldrow, Robin Steans, Edie Washington, Ann Whalen