We envision Illinois as a place where every young child – regardless of race, ethnicity, income, language, geography, ability, immigration status, or other circumstance – receives the strongest possible start to life so that they grow up safe, healthy, happy, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

**Illinois Early Learning Council Executive Committee Meeting**

**October 2, 2023, 5:30pm-7:30pm**

**Join from the meeting link**

[https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=md45afcb8421166599565f15af5cc9028](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fillinois.webex.com%2Fillinois%2Fj.php%3FMTID%3Dmd45afcb8421166599565f15af5cc9028&data=05%7C01%7CTSEAL%40isbe.net%7C70bc8e929fc748a2770808dbc1010ff5%7C0364fe8649c64af4b52c335a99e577d1%7C0%7C0%7C638315982563000751%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uAfKet385YZIvdEmzhtd9eC6CzEK8%2B0SIyHJv%2Fhle8I%3D&reserved=0)

Meeting number: (access code): 2633 725 0165

Meeting password: QmKQJups252

**Total # of participants: 77**

**5:30 Welcome & Update from Co-Chairs**

The Early Learning Council (ELC) Executive Committee Co-Chair, Martin Torres, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Martin welcomed everyone in attendance. The Co-Chairs try to run evening meetings to give parents the best opportunity to be able to join.

Phyllis Glink, Co-Chair, invited attendees to enter their names and affiliation in the chat. She then invited Co-Chairs of each committee to share any updates.

**Carisa Hurley, Co-Chair of the Community Equity and Access Committee:** They are currently still down one co-chair. The committee is looking over their objectives. What they were seeking for last year and what is on the agenda for this year. There are no recommendations to bring forward.

**Christi Chadwick, Co-Chair of Quality and Workforce Committee:** They are spending time focusing on compensation and are shifting focus to look at benefits. They had speakers come in and discuss benefits and what they are using.

**Joanna Su, Co-Chair of Health and Home Visiting:** They have started to delve into discussion of alignment of supports for doulas within home visiting. They do not have any recommendations yet.

**Trish Rooney, Integration & Alignment Committee:** They have robust participation and are making sure they are getting everyone’s recommendations.

**Dena Chapman, Family Action Committee:** They are in the final stretch and meeting once per month. They have developed a work plan to complete two goals by the end of the year. They will be presenting at the Sharing a Vision conference coming up in Peoria, Illinois.

Martin Torres shared that the next ELC Full Committee meeting is currently scheduled for October 16th, 2023. Changing the date will allow us to focus on governance. It will be rescheduled to November 6th or November 13th, 2023, from 11:00am-1:00pm. There is an opportunity for everyone to post in the chat box which date would work best for them. Phyllis and Martin will consider this when setting the date. The ELC Executive Committee Meeting may need to meet again before the full committee meeting.

There will be a celebration of GOECD on Friday, October 20th, 2023, from 2:00pm-4:00pm at 555 West Monroe. If you have have questions, you can reach Mackenzie Eisen via email at [mackenzie.eisen@illinois.gov](mailto:mackenzie.eisen@illinois.gov). Martin wants to thank all staff who have aided in GOECD. Martin applauds Dr. Jordan’s leadership and asked if anyone else would like to share well wishes to Dr. Jordan. Many attendees wrote kind words to Dr. Jordan in the chat. Nicole Craft, Carisa Hurley, Sergio H., Dena Chapman, Mariana Souto-Manning, Wendy Williams, Chevelle Bailey, Edie Washington, Martina Rocha, and Lauri Frichtl all verbally thanked Dr. Jordan.

**6:00pm Preschool Development Grant Project Updates**

Carisa Hurley stated that in Spring another round of PDGB-5 may come out.

Nicole Craft (slideshow), The slideshow is posted on the GOECD website and gave updates on the following topics related to the PDGB-5 grant: Needs Assessment; Home Visitor needs assessment done by INCCRRA, Family and community engagement, workforce and disseminate activities, support program quality improvement, no-cost extension.

Carisa Hurley (slideshow), The slideshow is posted on the GOECD website and includes SMART START ECBG Goal and status, FY 2024 Application Overview, update regarding the FY 2024 Awards, lessons learned in the FY 2024 application process, and ongoing support for potential applications. The slideshow also announces ISBE staff serving as ELC Committee Staffers and their role as staffers. Taylor Seal will serve as the ELC Executive Committee staffer and support all other staffers.

The following questions were asked:

-**Are all the PFA new slots, or will some help to layer into existing programs to expand quality?**

Carisa, it could be either. Some could be new slots, but others will help existing programs.

**-Did ISBE determine a cost per child floor for these new slots to ensure that programs can properly compensate staff?**

Carisa, we are continuing to work out cost per child. There is no specific figure yet.

**6:28 State Agency Updates**

**ISBE**: See above

**DHS:** Bethany Patten (slideshow), The slideshow is posted on the GOECD website and included an update on SMART START DHS implementation specific to home visiting, childcare, and early intervention.

**DCFS:** Chevelle Bailey, no major updates

**DPH:** no update shared

**DHFS:** Laura Phelan (slideshow)

**IBHE:** Christi Chadwick, The ECACE has increased rates of success because of the support that the institutions are providing. The third year of the scholarship has launched and the number of applications since the soft launch the first year have grown immensely. There is a consortium meeting coming up on October 27, 2023. Information for the meeting will be posted on the ECACE website. The board is launching a new IAI (Illinois Articulation Initiative) Panel in the next few months to focus on transfer pathways for those in Elementary and Secondary higher education programs. They also launched a grant application for housing security.

**ICCB:** Marcus Brown, they have a new staff member, Adrienne Pickett. The Advisory Committee meeting is on November 3rd, 2023, at 1:00pm.

**7:17pm Public Comment**

Linnet Mendez: Plea for maintaining the work being done in the IECHM Consultation Initiative. Requesting that this public private initiative be held somewhere in the new governance structure.

Delreen Schmidt-Lenz: Spoke about advocating infant mental health.

Lauren Wiley: Chiming into the importance of infant mental health. It would be a shame if we lost momentum. I hope it lands in a neutral agency.

Dennis Abreu**:** Echoing in agreement with Lauren about a neutral agency.

**7:26pm Closing Comments & Adjourn**

Martin Torres thanked everyone for coming.

The next full ELC meeting is currently being rescheduled to either November 6, or November 13, 2023, from 11:00am-1:00pm. The next ELC Executive meeting is TBD at the end of November 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

**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.