

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**  
**Research, Evaluation and Data Committee**  
**February 23, 2023, 1:00-2:30 pm**

Join via [Webex](#) or Call-in 1-415-655-0002

Access Code/Meeting Number: 2461 829 7161

Password: dwG5rjF4Hm2

## **Agenda**

### **1:00 PM Welcome: Open Meetings Act, Meeting Norms**

- Co-Chairs Mariana Souto-Manning, Ph.D. and Dawn Thomas, Ph.D.

### **1:25 PM Case Study: Carole Robertson Center for Learning**

- Ashley Nazarak and Sonja Knight

### **2:05 PM Breakout Groups**

- Co-Chairs Mariana Souto-Manning, Ph.D. and Dawn Thomas, Ph.D.

### **2:23 PM Report out from Breakout Groups**

- Co-Chairs Mariana Souto-Manning, Ph.D. and Dawn Thomas, Ph.D.

### **2:28 PM Public Comment**

### **2:30 PM Adjourn**

- **Next Meeting: April 27, 2023, 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

**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;