

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 Meeting February 27, 2023

Join from the meeting link:

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Meeting number (access code): 2466 248 8000

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### Agenda

#### **11:00 AM** Welcome & Purpose

ELC Co-chairs Phyllis Glink, Executive Director, Irving B. Harris Foundation & Martin Torres, Deputy Governor for Education, Office of the Governor JB Pritzker

- Recap: ELC Committee Meetings to date
- Smart Start Illinois announcements & PDG B-5 Update

#### **11:15 AM** ELC Committee Co-chairs Update (10 minutes each)

- Research, Evaluation, & Data Committee
- Quality & Workforce Committee
- Integration & Alignment Committee
- Health & Home Visiting Committee
- Family Advisory Committee
- Community Equity & Access Committee

#### **12:15 PM** Discussion: I/ECMHC Needs Assessment and Guide

Wendy McCullough, Consultant and La'Tasha Lee, GOECD, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Manager

#### **12:45 PM** Break

## 12:55 PM Break-Out Discussions

Breakout groups facilitated by ELC Executive Committee members.

- Regional intermediary & community systems infrastructure: what support needs to be in place for Smart Start Illinois roll out (i.e., ECBG, EI, HV expansion) to be successful in FY24?
  - What needs to be part of the regional, intermediary, and community system infrastructure evaluation done through PDG? TA mapping (Bethany/Jason/Trish)
- Smart Start Workforce Compensation Contracts-discussion and feedback for shaping the ELC as an advisory group (Kirstin/Christi/Bela)
- PDG projects discussion (Carisa/Marcus/Joanna/Diana)

## 1:35 PM Report Out: Group Discussions

Executive Committee members report out on discussion take-aways.

## 1:50 PM Public Comment

**2:00 PM** Adjourn-Next ELC Exec. Mtg. 05.01.23-5:30 PM to 7:30 PM; Full ELC Mtg. 06.05.23-5:30 PM to 7:30 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.
- 4) 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.