

Illinois Early Learning Council (ELC) Health and Home Visiting Committee (HHVC)
Monday, March 18, 2024
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

MINUTES

Participants

Co-Chairs: Joanna Su, Diana Rauner

Staff: Jean Davis, Kayla Goldfarb

Participants: Martina Rocha, Carisa Hurley, Tracy Small, Sonja Clark, Lisa Cohen, Sandra Cartagena, Lori Orr, Lesley Schwartz, Abby Snow, Jennie Pinkwater, Jon Korfmacher, Jennifer Vidis, Delreen Schmidt-Lenz, Tracy Patton, Kristian Wanland, Jessica Wilkerson, Glendean Burton, Cassidy Chambers, Adebola Hassan, Brittney Hale, Taylor Seal, Alli Lowe-Fotos, Penny Smith, Tamara Doyle, Tamara Sanders-Carter, Kim Hanes, Nancy Flowers, Brenda Eastham, Viviana Deltas, Linda Steinberg, Elizabeth Rogers, Arden Handler, Azalea Mejia, Brittain Ayers, Jaime Russell, Brenda Solorzano, Rose Malloy, Aujannette Garcia-Goyette, Melanie Garrett, Christina Shirley, Shewardia Johns, Marisa, Geralyn Johnson, Alexis Batchelder, Whitney Walsh, Stephanie Lard, Isela Serna, Marisa Gil, Rebecca Metrick, Mary Kestel, Janna Simon, Liz Vincent

Welcome and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm. Co-Chair Diana Rauner provided a welcome and read the racial equity definition. She reviewed the agenda, including the notice of public comment at the end of the meeting. Attendees were asked to enter their name and organization into the chat for attendance.

Review of the minutes

No corrections or changes were noted. Present voting members voted to approve the minutes.

Home Visiting Funding Updates

Carisa Hurley provided an update on Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Early Childhood Block Grant, which was released later that day. The FY2025 Smart Start Goals are to eliminate preschool deserts and to expand access to preschool in FY25 by 5,000 center-based Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion seats and provide additional expansion to Prevention Initiative (PI) center-based programs. One of the goals is to align slots for infants and toddlers with the preschool slots to allow families with multiple children to attend the same center. Prevention initiative priorities include current PFA/PFE grantees proposing to provide PI services at the same location, applicant does not currently receive ECBG funding, applicants applying with a subcontracted effort with family childcare home, applicant is a prior or current Smart Start Child Care grant recipient. Funding will be used for new slots and quality funding to existing slots. Current programs do not need to apply for continuation.

ISBE will not award new Prevention Initiative home visiting seats in FY2025. The portion of 25% PI set aside will be used to work toward aligning ISBE home visiting program salaries with the IDHS home visiting base salary requirements. ISBE is conducting a salary survey of home visiting programs.

The deadline for application is May 16, 2024. Applicants must submit an intent to apply first in order to have access to the application. ISBE is offering technical assistance webinars and office hours. In addition, the Birth to Five Illinois Regional Team is available to assist applicants.

Joanna Su provided an update on IDHS-DEC home visiting. In FY24 IDHS-DEC added approximately 310 home visiting slots, which are anticipated to serve 440 additional families. In FY25 IDHS-DEC will build on that foundation by expanding slots into new communities in partnership with ISBE, with a plan to expand service to approximately 500-650 additional families. IDHS-DEC identified 7 priority communities from the 2020 MIECHV Statewide Needs Assessment. Community readiness assessments have been conducted, facilitated by Illinois Action for Children. Using

the process described in *Community Readiness: A Capacity*, a broad range of local stakeholders were engaged. Based on readiness assessment results, IDHS-DEC will issue a notice of funding opportunity in selected counties, contingent on appropriations. Communities were selected using 14 indicators, with additional weight placed on equity, maternal health, and program capacity. Key stakeholders were identified in each community and over 70 interviews were conducted. Surveys were also collected from community leaders, home visiting program leaders and staff, coordinated intake staff, and families and caregivers.

Home Visiting Funding Coordination Recommendations

The home visiting funding alignment recommendations that were discussed at our December meeting were approved by the ELC Executive Committee at the February 5, 2024, meeting. Since then, the HHVC co-chairs, ISBE and DHS met to begin discussing which might be implemented in the near term.

Doula Alignment

Kayla Goldfarb discussed plans to collaborate with the Perinatal Supports Workgroup of Raising Illinois. The work group will likely meet twice in April. There is already a good list of topics. In May recommendations would be brought to the Raising Illinois work followed by the HHV Committee in June. Several HHVC members volunteered to participate in the workgroup. They will receive meeting invitations from Kayla Goldfarb.

IDHS Collaboration

Joanna Su briefly described plans to work with IDPH to identify a community or two to support collaboration between home visiting and public health departments. IDHS Bureau of Home Visiting has been talking with partners in WIC and Family Case Management and IDPH to identify places that we might collaborate. Looking at morbidity data, we hope to identify some communities where we can support and strengthen the collaboration among programs and services.

Partner Updates

Birth to Five

Sonja Clark, with Birth to Five, provided an update. Birth to Five is conducting a Mental and Behavioral Health Needs Assessments in the regions as a continuation of the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessments that were produced last year. They are a response to the concerns raised in the regional councils about unmet mental and behavioral health needs of children. Surveys went out to early childhood providers and programs as well as families and caregiver. Over one thousand surveys have been received from across the state. Focus groups are also planned. It is anticipated that the report narrative will be released over the summer, in July or August.

IDPH – Title V

Title V in the Illinois Department of Public Health has begun collecting information as part of the Needs Assessment for Maternal and Child Health in IL. Part of that process is gathering input from individuals living in Illinois about the health of Illinois women, pregnant/postpartum individuals, children, adolescents, and families. The survey [IL Title V Needs Assessment | Public Input Survey \(qualtrics.com\)](#) asks about the health challenges facing your family and community and will help guide the work of the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Services Title V in collaboration with the University of Illinois Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children Program over the next five years to ensure that it meets the needs and priorities of Illinois residents and communities.

New Early Childhood Agency Update

Subsequent to the meeting, the new webpage went live [Early Childhood Governance Transition Planning \(illinois.gov\)](#). Attendees were encouraged to provide input to the Early Childhood Transition Team through participating in Listening Sessions and completing the [2024 Listening Session Survey on Illinois' ECE Governance Transition \(google.com\)](#) and Spanish [Encuesta de la Sesión de Escucha 2024 sobre la Transición de la Gobernanza de ECE en Illinois \(google.com\)](#)

Medicaid

Staff from the Department of Health Care and Family Services (HFS) were not able to attend the meeting. An update will be provided at a later date.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place June 17, 2024, from 1:00 – 2:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm

DRAFT