

Early Childhood Education and Care Transition Listening Session

January 19, 2024

12:00 – 1:00 pm



Today's Goals

- ✓ Understand the purpose of the Transition Listening Sessions and how they support planning for the new early childhood agency
- ✓ Understand the vision and purpose of the transition work
- ✓ Learn about the timeline and critical milestones for the work
- ✓ Understand the perspectives of diverse voices from the field

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks	5 min.
Getting to Know You: Who's in the Room	5 min.
Overview of the Transition Work & Timeline	10 min.
Hearing From You: Feedback and Discussion	35 min.
Next Steps & Close	5 min.

Welcome & Opening Remarks



Getting to Know You: Who's in the Room?



Poll: Who's in the Room?

Poll questions:

1. **What voice/perspective are you representing here today?**
2. What region of the state are you located in?



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The Purpose of the Listening Sessions is to...

- Provide updates on the transition process
- Understand the opportunities for the new agency based on the lived experiences and perspectives of diverse voices
- Create a space for stakeholders to hear and learn from each other



Listening Session Logistics

Meeting Structure

- Held approximately once every other month
- Conducted virtually via zoom

Materials

- Presentation materials will be available on the ELC website

Overview of the Transition Work & Timeline



In fall 2023, the Governor initiated the transition to a unified state agency, bringing a long-standing vision to life

- On October 24th, Governor Pritzker [signed an Executive Order](#) to **initiate the transition to a unified agency**
- The unified agency **will address challenges families face** with navigating three different agencies and provide a **more equitable, integrated, and holistic system of services**
- An **external advisory committee (TAC)** will be established for stakeholder input



“Early Childhood program governance has to be unified in its focus on serving children and families, easing the burden on providers and promoting equity,” Pritzker said at a news conference in Chicago. “Other states like Colorado, New Mexico, Massachusetts and Georgia, among others, have already created a unified state agency solely dedicated to early childhood. It's time for Illinois to do the same.”

– Governor JB Pritzker, October 24, 2023
Capitol News, Illinois

We must improve the current system by advancing racial equity and learning from the 2019 Funding Commission

"Racial equity requires explicit acknowledgement of our racial history in addressing policy problems, shifting power to groups historically excluded from decision-making, and **co-designing future policy** to achieve outcomes that are no longer predicted by race." -Chicago United for Equity (CUE)

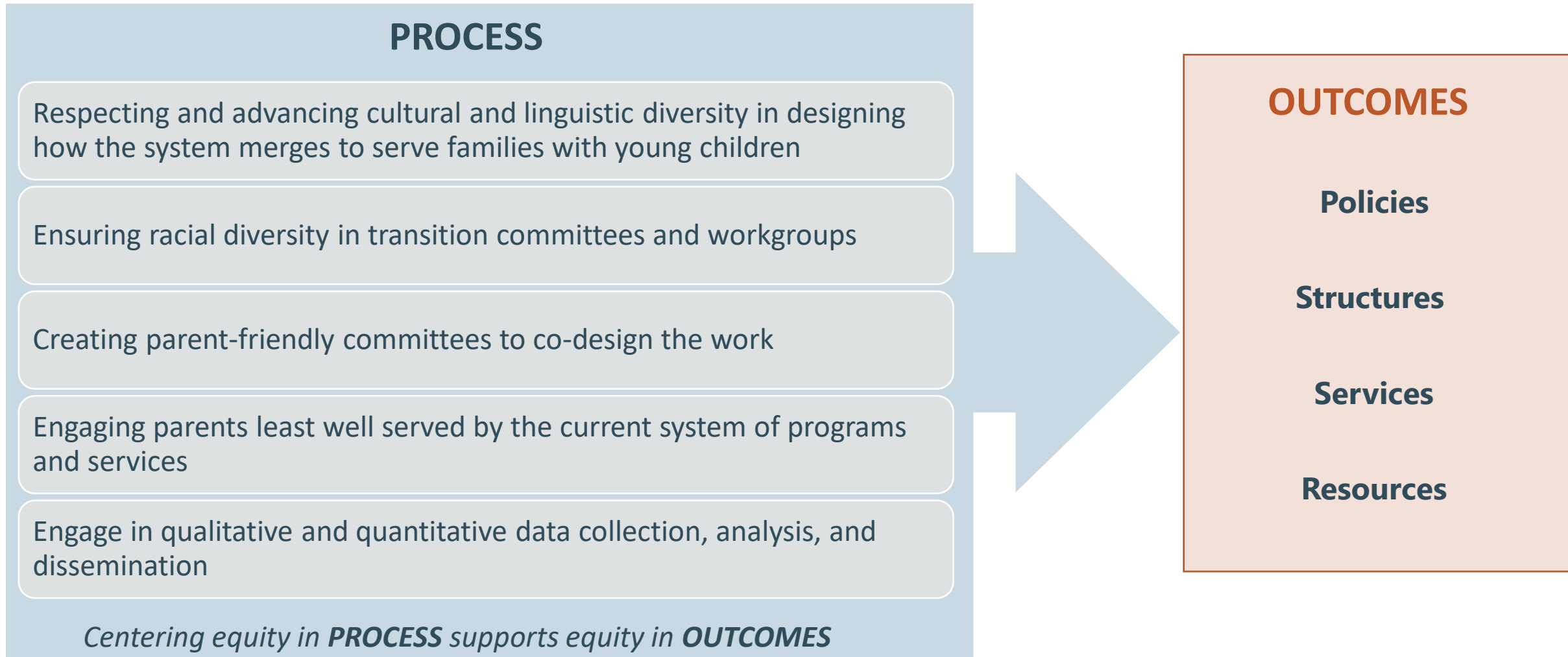


Chicago United for Equity (CUE) uses the analogy of baking a cupcake. "To use the analogy of baking a cupcake, racial equity cannot be the sprinkles, it must be the flour."

Our approach to racial equity adds parents to the process of choosing what type of cupcake to make and designing the recipe, as well as in the ingredients.

Our efforts to improve the system must center racial equity and parent participation

The transition will center racial equity in process, vision for system, and outcomes of programs and services.



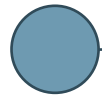
The transition will be over a multi-year timeline, allowing for thorough listening and thoughtful planning

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Spring 2024

Summer 2024

July 2026



Begin listening to parents, families, and providers about needs for an ECEC system

New agency authorized in legislation

New agency launched

New agency operating programs

ISBE, IDHS/DEC, DCFS continue to administer programs and lead continuous quality improvement

Engagement with families, providers, and other stakeholders is foundational to this process



There are multiple opportunities to engage and gather input from diverse voices and perspectives



Understand First: Hearing from you



Discussion: We want your feedback on priorities and opportunities for the new agency

- Facilitators will elevate themes and questions to discuss with the large group.
- Click the Padlet [link](#) in the chat to share your thoughts.
- There will be three minutes for individual reflection.
- To provide verbal feedback, please use the "raise hand" feature, and we will call on you to unmute and share.

Stakeholder Discussion

1. What excites you about the transition to a new unified agency?

2. What opportunities do you see to improve services to children and families through a unified early childhood agency?

3. How can we ensure this process centers equity?

Stakeholder Discussion

Question 1: What excites you about the transition to a new unified agency?

Three minutes of individual reflection



To provide verbal feedback, please use the "raise hand" feature, and we will call on you to unmute and share.



Stakeholder Discussion

Question 2: What opportunities do you see to improve services to children and families through a unified early childhood agency?

Three minutes of individual reflection



To provide verbal feedback, please use the "raise hand" feature, and we will call on you to unmute and share.



Stakeholder Discussion

Question 3: How can we ensure this process centers equity?

Three minutes of individual reflection



To provide verbal feedback, please use the "raise hand" feature, and we will call on you to unmute and share.



Public Comment



Opportunities for engagement and communications

Transition Listening Sessions - bi-monthly interactive calls will provide updates, solicit input and feedback, and address questions about the transition

Existing Advisory Groups and Councils - Existing groups will host conversations and provide feedback on the transition

Transition Advisory Committee Meetings - Monthly meetings to help the state make meaning of stakeholder input in preparation for the transition, with a particular emphasis on understanding families' goals and needs.

Listening Session Survey on Illinois' ECE Governance Transition – survey to provide input and ask questions about the transition

Ad hoc Workgroups – stakeholder workgroups to provide recommendations on key areas that emerge through the transition process

Website - *in process*



Please contact
Ann Whalen
Awhalen@isbe.net

Next Steps & Close



- Next Meeting: March 15, 2024
12:00 – 1:00 pm
- Please complete and share the Listening Session Survey on Illinois' ECE Governance Transition

Thank you!