

Approved January 25, 2022

**Minutes**  
**Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity**  
**December 8, 2021**

**Submitted for:** Action

**Summary:** Minutes of the December 8, 2021 Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity held via video conference and telephone, as permitted by Public Act 101-0640.

**Action Requested:** ECACE approve the minutes of the December 8, 2021 Consortium meeting.

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**Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity**  
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A meeting of the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) was conducted via telephone and video conference as permitted by Public Act 101-0640. Ginger Ostro and Brian Durham determined that an in-person meeting was not practical nor prudent due to the disaster. The IBHE’s Executive Deputy Director was physically present at the IBHE offices. The audio of the meeting was recorded and may be found on the ECACE website.

The following institutions and their representatives were present.

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Voting Member</b>
Black Hawk College	Amy Maxeiner
Blackburn College	Cindy Rice
College of DuPage	Jean Zaar
Chicago State University	Carolyn Theard-Griggs
Danville Area Community College	Penny McConell
DePaul University	Marie Donovan
Dominican University	Jacob Bucher
Elgin Community College	Peggy Heinrich
Greenville University	Laura Schaub
Harold Washington College	Shiang-Kwei Wang
Harper College	Kathleen Nikolai
Heartland College	Johnna Darragh-Ernst
Highland Community College	David Naze
Illinois Eastern Community College	Robert Conn
Illinois Valley Community College	Tammy Landgraf
Illinois State University	Amy Hurd
John A Logan College	Melanie Pecord
John Wood Community College	April Darringer
Joilet Junior College	Melissa Szymczak
Kankakee Community College	Kiana Battle
Kaskaskia College	Julie Obermark
Kishwaukee College	Judson Curry
Lake Land College	Jon Althaus

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Voting Member</b>
Lewis & Clark Community College	Michael Sundblad
Lewis University	Kip Kline
Lincol Land Community College	Jason Docker
Malcom X College	Katonja K. Webb
McHenry County College	Dawn Katz
Moraine Valley Community College	Pam Haney
Morton College	Michael Rose
National Louis University	Lisa Downey
Northern Illinois University	Laurie Elish-Piper
Oakton Community College	Marc Battista
Olivet Nazarene University	Lance Kilpatrick
Prairie State College	Janice Kaushal
Rockford University	Gina Braun
Roosevelt University	Tom Philion
Sauk Valley Community College	Jon Mandrell
St. Xavier University	Natalie Phillips
Southwestern Illinois College	Carolyn Beal
Truman College	Kate Connor
University of Illinois Chicago	Kathryn Bouchard Chval
University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign	Nancy Latham
Waubonsee Community College	Sharon Garcia
Western Illinois University	Francis Godwyll

**Conveners:** Others present include the following from the convening agencies.

Illinois Board of Higher Education: Ginger Ostro, Stephanie Bernoteit, Sophia Gehlhausen, Christi Chadwick

Illinois Community College Board: Brian Durham, Marcus Brown, Mackenzie Montgomery, Matt Berry

I. Welcome and Housekeeping

Ginger Ostro called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. A quorum was present. She introduced Christi Chadwick and Marcus Brown and the consultants from the Institute for Academic Alliances. Ginger Ostro then shared the objectives and agenda for the meeting

Brian Durham welcomed the group and provided an overview of the key pieces of the work of the Consortium, from the legislation.

II. Consortium Vision and Charge

Christi Chadwick gave an overview of the vision for the Consortium work and then turned the meeting over to Carol VanNahmen to talk about the Guiding Principles.

III. Guiding Principles

Carol VanNahmen introduced herself and colleagues Sue Maes and Amanda Gnadt. She provided an overview of some draft guiding principles for the Consortium to consider for how the body will work together. The guiding principles are the broad foundation to build upon jointly with shared values. It's important that everyone understands and agrees on what's important. Student centering is the first priority – the students. The next four are Share Leadership, Behave as Equals, Respect and Accommodate Institutional Differences, Simplify Student Navigation.

Christi Chadwick said there would be a working group to look at the proposed Guiding Principles and give full feedback.

Questions and Comments:

Who developed the guiding principles? Who was involved? This was a small group of agency leadership and IAA who put some thoughts on paper for the group to respond to, including me, Christi, Sophia, Stephanie, Marcus, and occasionally Ginger and Brian.

Melissa Szymczak commented that she was heartened to see students at the center and she believes the institution to institution navigation is going to be tricky to work out.

IV. Role of Consortium Representatives and Institutional Teams

Marcus Brown introduced the section on Consortium Institutional Roles and said that a roster of members would be available when membership is finalized.

Sue Maes gave an overview of the role of the Institutional Teams, which should be led by the Consortium Representative. That person is key in sharing information and bringing back ideas and information. Representatives will be the ones to ensure institutional readiness in implementing the policies set by the consortium. She outlined key roles for the team, including Deans, faculty, coordinators, distance learning, marketing and communications, registrar, financial representatives, financial aid, and others.

Questions and Comments:

How do we approach the work? There is a lot – what steps do we take to get it done?

We take queues from the legislation and we meet deadlines included, and they there will be critical work to figure out how how to transfer the AAS soon. There also will be multiple pathways and solutions for the work.

When will we receive the intergovernmental agreement?

Those are on the way and we will talk about those more in just a bit.

Will there be marketing for the scholarship?

Yes, that's coming.

When will the regional hubs be established?

The hubs are being envisioned more as learning collaboratives. We don't want to undo partnerships that have already been established.

Christi Chadwick shared that the Consortium representatives should bring back information on the institutional roles and guiding principles to their teams for discussion. Feedback is needed by 1/10/22.

V. Priority/Time Sensitive Work

Christi Chadwick introduced some time sensitive work of the Consortium.

CDA for Credit: Christi Chadwick gave a brief overview of the CDA and the legislative requirement to decide on a way to award credit by 1/31/22. To meet this deadline, she proposed a small ad hoc working group to make recommendations to the Consortium. Members of the working group may include consortia representatives and other key stakeholders. C. Chadwick proposed bringing back recommendations by 1/25/22. Please email Christi Chadwick by 12/13/22 to volunteer.

AAS Transfer: Marcus Brown proposed an AAS Transfer Community of Practice to begin sharing ideas and best practices and to learn from one another. The work will begin in January. Please email Christi by the 13<sup>th</sup> to volunteer.

Questions and Comments

Kate Connor mentioned that the CDA conversation came up a few years ago because there isn't a credit bearing equivalent to the Level 1 credential. And, this represents what the field is grappling with around competencies and demonstrating those. We need to hold everyone accountable to recognize the competencies and program outcomes we are assessing.

VI. ECACE Scholarship Presentation

Marcus Brown provided an overview of the role of the scholarship. Christy Shields provided an overview of the scholarship itself and the process to apply. Students must complete the FAFSA and be registered in the Gateways to Opportunity registry. The priority deadline for applying is March 1, 2022.

VII. Early Childhood Workforce: Federal and State Landscape

Dr. Theresa Hawley gave a presentation that included information on the early childhood workforce and the challenges they face, the work of the Early Childhood Funding Commission and the federal Build Back Better Bill

VIII. Updates on Other Consortium Related Work

General updates were provided around the navigators, regional hubs, and institutional grants. The navigators will be hired through the CCRRs and contracts are being finalized to do that now. A small governance group met to talk about the regional hubs and agreed that these should function as professional learning communities and that coursework sharing would not be limited to the hubs. Sophia Gehlhausen provided an overview of how institutional grant funding might be used and that the grants are being held up by delays in the IDHS grants to agencies.

A question was asked about graduate scholarships. Gehlhausen said that there would be approximately 50, distributed through institutional grants.

IX. Next Steps and Future Meetings

Christi Chadwick reminded the group about the 'homework' to review the guiding principles with institutional teams and send feedback.

The next meeting will be held on 1/25/22.

X. Public Comment

No one made public comments.