



Advisory Committee
August 10, 2022

Meeting Minutes

WELCOME

Ginger Ostro welcomes everyone to the meeting on behalf of co-chairs, reviews the Open Meetings Act guidelines, announces the meeting is being recorded and materials will be available on the Consortium website (www.ecace.org). Ostro specifies the public comment process. She welcomes Brian Durham, who reviews the meeting agenda for the meeting.

MEETING NORMS AND EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

Ostro reviews the Ground Rules and Guiding Principles established by the committee, reminding everyone of the importance of keeping the workforce, young children, and families at the center and maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Ostro welcomes a new Advisory Committee member, Leslie Mckinily, Deputy Chief of Early Learning at Chicago Public Schools. Mckinily assumes the responsibilities held by Bryan Stokes, former Deputy Chief. Mckinily expresses her appreciation for being a part of the Advisory Committee.

Christi Chadwick, IBHE, introduces Kirstin Chernawsky, director of the Division of Early Childhood at the Illinois Department of Human Services. Chernawsky introduces Jill Andrews, owner and director of Kiddie Kollege in Fairfield, IL. Andrews discusses the notable retention of staff with state resources. To “build their own” and continue professional growth, ECACE navigators are working individually with all of her staff and, as a result, all but two staff are enrolled in higher education. Andrews also extends the work of the Consortium with other early childhood organizations that she provides leadership and supports. Chernawsky thanks Andrews for the success stories shared and turns the meeting back to Chadwick.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA)

Chadwick summarizes the charge and work of the Consortium to determine how to credit is assigned for the CDA and the benefits of this practice.

Framework

Chadwick reviews the framework of the recommendation approved by the Consortium in June 2022: 6 credit hours in early childhood, not contingent on other factors.

Implementation

Chadwick shares the plan for implementation of the Preschool CDA by the end of January 2023 and the Infant Toddler CDA by the end of January 2024. Some institutions are planning to implement both. Marcus Brown, ICCB, shares the questions around implementation and communication plan, and acknowledges the arduous work in moving this forward.

Questions

Chadwick introduces an interactive activity using MURAL with two questions: What role can you play to get the word out about credit for the CDA? How else might we share this information?

Advisory members contribute several suggestions to reach employers: launch messaging to specific populations and targeted time frames to do outreach, connect with the CDA Council to ensure that there are observers to meet the demand of the increase in number, reach out to high school counselors to alert them, distribute through state and city organizations, and use small cohorts to encourage success.

Chadwick gratefully acknowledges the Advisory's contributions to this discussion. She turns the meeting back to Chernawsky.

SUPPORTING EC WORKFORCE TO ACCESS AND ENROLL: EXPERIENCES OF STUDENTS, NAVIGATORS, AND INSTITUTIONS

Chernawsky shares what is happening in the field as navigators and institutions work together to engage and support the workforce to enroll in a higher education program. Chernawsky read the stories of two incumbent workforce members who want to share their stories but were not able to be present. The first one is a story of a person who was able to utilize a navigator to access a scholarship for the fall to finish her degree and open a family childcare home. The second person is a teacher aide with an associate's degree in a different field of study, and with the help of a navigator can pursue her education at a university in the fall, maximizing the credits toward a degree in early childhood.

Chernawsky invites Carmen Ayala to spotlight more of the work that is currently happening.

Ayala states that there are about 30 navigators who have been engaging the workforce, supporting them to complete the FAFSA, apply for the scholarship, and help get them to the appropriate college or university for a warm handoff. Two of the navigators from SDA 14, and a mentor and a program coordinator from Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) are present to join the Advisory today. Hannah Howell and Sara Seitz share their backgrounds and role as navigators, and Yvette Schultz and Carolyn Beal share their backgrounds and roles at SWIC. Together Howell and Seitz share the collaborative work they do with the early childhood workforce and welcome to college for the new students. Schultz and Beal describe the supportive relationship SWIC develops with these students and events they provide to help support successful entry into college. Specific strategies that lead to success are presented. Challenges experienced are articulated and shared.

Ayala expresses her gratitude to the presenters and turns the meeting back to Chadwick.

Chadwick shares the slides summarizing the successes and supports provided by ECACE navigators and some barriers are identified. She turns the meeting back to Ostro.

Ostro leads a general discussion with the Advisory for their insights. Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas asks a question about the higher education mentors finding current information about what the Consortium is, and what systems and structures are currently in place for them to connect to. Schultz, as a mentor, shares information about the community of practice that some are engaged in. Chadwick shares that now that many of the mentors/coaches at higher education institutions are now hired that a meeting the following week is planned for them, modeled after what is currently provided to the navigators.

Kate Connor shares strategies for promoting the work at City Colleges of Chicago. Francis Godwyll shares ways that Western Illinois University builds a community with the students with Q&A sessions and welcomes the students coming in from the navigators and welcomed by the mentors/coaches. Emnet Ward describes how their organization, Eyes on the Future, sees the impact of the scholarships and relationships with the navigator and mentor.

The discussion continues, describing the progress of the navigators and learning collaboratively throughout the state. Pacione-Zayas suggests that all this work could build a "playbook" to institute this process. She additionally asks about scholarships for undocumented workers. Marcus Brown explained that while the ECACE scholarships do not cover undocumented workers, he suggests resources available for access.

Ward asks about ways to address the challenges of public schools recruiting from childcare centers. Ostro invites ideas and suggestions. Participants add information in the chat and provide ideas. Ostro turns the meeting over to Chadwick to share ECACE updates.

GENERAL UPDATES

Chadwick announces that there are 32 navigators hired. She encourages applications for the scholarships that are still open. Currently there are more than 1,000 applicants for the fall semester. Chadwick provides an update on all the colleges and universities work who are providing additional supports. Chadwick turns the meeting back to Ostro.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Ostro presents the minutes as they were distributed prior to the meeting. She asks for a motion to approve the minutes. Pacione-Zayas makes a motion to approve the minutes, Ayala seconds the motion.

Ostro asks for any changes or corrections to the minutes. Pacione-Zayas asks that the spelling of her name be corrected for the meeting and amended for the minutes.

Ostro holds a roll call vote for approval of the meeting minutes. Members vote to approve the minutes.

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| 1. Alicia Geddis, yes | 19. Kate Connor, yes |
| 2. Ashley Harms, yes | 20. Ken Trzaska, absent |
| 3. Avis Proctor, yes | 21. Kimberly Mann, absent |
| 4. Brian Durham, no response | 22. Lauri Morrison-Frichtl, yes |
| 5. Carmen Ayala, yes | 23. Laurie Elish-Piper, yes |
| 6. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, yes | 24. Leslie Mckinily, yes |
| 7. Dale Fowler, absent | 25. Lisa Downey, yes |
| 8. Emnet Ward, yes | 26. Martina Rocha, no response |
| 9. Evelyn Osorio, absent | 27. Maurice West II, no response |
| 10. Francis Godwyll, yes | 28. Meredith Palmer, yes |
| 11. Ginger Ostro, yes | 29. Michael Kim, yes |
| 12. Jamilah Jor'dan, absent | 30. Michael Marron, no response |
| 13. Jennifer Buchter, absent at time of vote | 31. Mike Shackelford, absent |
| 14. Jill Andrews, yes | 32. Rebecca Vonderlack-Navarro, yes |
| 15. Jim Reed, yes | 33. Rochelle Golliday, yes |
| 16. Joi Patterson, yes | 34. Stephanie Neuman, yes |
| 17. Joni Scritchlow, yes | 35. Stephanie Schmitz-Bechtler, yes |
| 18. Karen Yarbrough, absent | 36. Susan Orozco, absent |

The motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one has signed up for public comments, and additional time for any comment is extended.

NEXT STEPS

Ostro thanks everyone for the presentations, the great work in the field, the contributions to this meeting, and appreciation for the partnership. The next Consortium meeting is November 10th, from 1pm-3pm. At that time, the dates for calendar year 2023 will be set for the Advisory Committee.

Ostro invites any other comments, and adjourns the meeting at 3:00pm.