



ECACE
EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS
CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY

CDA for Credit
Working Group Meeting
March 1, 2022
Minutes

A meeting of the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity CDA for Credit Working Group was called to order at 2:00 p.m. via telephone and video conference as permitted by Public Act 101-0640.

Participating in the meeting were: Christi Chadwick, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Marcus Brown, Illinois Community College Board; Allison Decker, Illinois Community College Board; Zach Allen, Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development; Melissa Batchelor, Lewis & Clark Community College; Carolyn Beal, Southwestern Illinois College; Johnna Darragh Ernst, Heartland Community College; Jason Dockter, Lincoln Land Community College; Ireta Gasner, Start Early; Melissa Johnson, Highland Community College; Nichole Miller, Children's Home & Aid; Joi Patterson, Governors State University; Melissa Szymczak, Joliet Junior College; Lindsay Meeker, Western Illinois University; Beth White, Illinois State University; Ty Jiles, Chicago State University; and Jean Zaar, College of DuPage.

ECACE Project Director Christi Chadwick opened the meeting by providing Open Meetings Act and public comment provisions. Chadwick asked if everyone received the minutes. Motion to approve by Melissa Batchelor. Christi Chadwick seconded. Chadwick asked if there were any changes or additions. Minutes were approved.

Chadwick presented a timeline of next steps for the group, looking at outstanding questions, mapping out models, and thinking about how to present to the Consortium and other partners. Chadwick went over areas of agreement for the group and said that there is likely not one single model to recommend to all institutions and that models can be flexible while aligned to fundamental principles. The Parking Lot slide was shared.

Chadwick gave an overview of the meetings with Nebraska, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania and shared key features of the models. Others in attendance provided additional information.

Joi Patterson said she thought we have a really good sample size. She suggested putting all information in a grid form with all the requirements or a summary of information in one document. The document could highlight places for agreement and/or additional whistles and bells.

Marcus Brown said he wondered if the group could take some lessons from all of the models around similar course equivalences or where they award the credit at as they think about what it might look like in Illinois. Brown said he thinks there can be multiple models at an institution, but that the state needs a default model; the law requires institutions to provide credit for the CDA, although what and how much credit may be optional.

The group discussed the importance of how credit is listed on the transcript to ensure it eases the pathway and aligns with other forms of documentation for prior learning, noting that institutions will need to be diligent about documenting credit.

Brown referenced the idea of a default model that awards a set amount of credits in an early childhood development program, and that a model could name common courses that would provide this credit. He acknowledged that there will be variation across institutions.

Patterson said the first big hurdle was working with community college partners and how courses would transfer to four-year institutions, and that courses that were previously not counted are now satisfied due to the Consortium and legislative requirements. The example was given that if a student has 6 hours, it will be captured on the transcript; otherwise students would have to complete an assessment.

Licensure audit requirements also posed a concern. Discussion advanced about what is reported and how this could affect the path forward. Patterson indicated she had just submitted her licensure audit and had concerns about awarding credit for past field placements. She said that she was required to demonstrate documentation of participation in all placements, including uploading a percentage of signatures documenting completion.

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.