



ECACE
EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS
CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY

CDA for Credit
Working Group Meeting
May 24, 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; Amanda Lemanski, Illinois Community College Board; Nyssa Westermeyer, Illinois Community College Board; Johnna Darragh Ernst, Heartland Community College; Nichole Miller, Children's Home & Aid; Melissa Szymczak, Joliet Junior College; Marlena Constant, SDA 13; Jennifer Brown, SDA 12; Lindsay Meeker, Western Illinois University; Beth White, Illinois State University; Marcy Mendenhall, SAL Family and Community Services; Kate Connor, City Colleges of Chicago (Truman College); Joi Patterson, Governors State University; Ireta Gasner, Start Early; Beth Smaka, Sauk Valley Community College; Ashley Nazarak; Jason Dockter, Lincoln Land Community College; Amy Forsberg; Dina Alzeer; Sarah Gowler; and Rebecca Swartz, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Public Participation and Open Meetings Act:

- ECACE Project Director Christi Chadwick opened the meeting by providing Open Meetings Act and public comment provisions.

Welcome:

Brown and Chadwick welcomed the group and brief introductions were made for new attendees.

CDA Framework:

Chadwick initiated a discussion with the group to review the work of the working group to date and to discuss next steps. Brown reminded the group that we are making recommendations for a state system, not for individual institutions. Chadwick and Brown asked the group to allow for all ideas and input.

Chadwick provided an overview of the ECACE Advisory meeting presentation about the CDA recommendations. Many people expressed their admiration and excitement for all their great work the day before with the advisory committee.

The group reviewed work done to date, key themes from state and IHE research, decisions and principles agreed upon to date. Below are the key themes from talking to other states and institutions.

- Generally, 6 hours are offered (some less, some more).
- They offer the classes Health, Safety or Nutrition typically; or an Intro ECE and or PK I/T or I/T development.
- Students don't need to do anything else for CDA, low cost,
- time: upon arrival,

- meaningful credit.

Discussion took place about support, excitement, key components, and concerns about the CDA recommendations. Some of the comments and questions included the following.

- Several supported the recommendations – and expressed that they represented a compromise and that students can get more credits elsewhere.
- Questions about whether the credit should be contingent on an assessment, with opposing opinions
- The recommendations and models allowed should be more standardized. The current ones allowed for too much flexibility. Students would benefit more from transparent and similar options, and it would be easier to transfer if this was similar across institutions. If these are not aligned to competencies, then this will be very challenging.
- Modularizing competencies by level was offered as a potential model/solution; this would allow for easier alignment w/the CDA
- Several mentioned the importance of doing the Infant Toddler CDA in addition to the preschool CDA
- Some said it would be easy to provide three credits but six would be challenging
- Others mentioned having a plan already in place to meet the recommendations

Marcus Brown invited those who had not commented to speak.

After some discussion, Chadwick asked if the group could live with Preschool by January 2023, and the infant toddler by January 2024. Everyone agreed. Melissa Szymczak suggested that these could be implemented concurrently, and several members agreed that this would be easy to do.

The group discussed ways that barriers should be addressed, such as quick program approvals by State agencies and institutions.

Chadwick and Brown asked if anyone had public comment. The meeting was adjourned.

There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.