



July 25, 2023  
Ivy Tech Community College  
345 High Street  
Muncie, IN 47305  
Call to Order: 1pm

Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FSSAIndianavideos>

- Call to Order – 1:00pm
- Chair’s Report
  - Progress by priority area
    - Assessment in progress
    - Cost based model
    - Eligibility expansion
    - Employer tax credit and grant opportunities
    - Licensing workgroup recommendations
- Director’s Report
  - Set up guiding principles for early learning system
  - Regulatory system
    - Child focused approach
    - Removing regulations that aren’t necessarily health and safety and incentivize in other ways
  - Subsidy systems
    - Prioritize ease of access and payment processing
    - See quality side of subsidy system
  - Quality system
    - Inform parents about expected return
    - Focus on transparency
    - Incorporate licensing
    - Encourage continuous improvement rather than compliance based system
- Approval of Agenda & May Minutes
  - Rob Moorhead, Moved
  - Erin Donovan, Second
- Provider & Community Spotlight
  - Delaware County’s *Cradle to Career* Initiative
    - George and Frances Ball Foundation
    - Working on overcoming impacts of generational poverty



- Equity strategy – other communities are using this approach
- Applied for promise neighborhood grant from federal government
  - Did not receive it but still using the plan to mobilize
- Using data as a flashlight not a hammer
- By 5 is helping to spearhead regional level initiatives
- Moving toward a collective collaborative alignment
- Using a common goal to drive change
- Work truly begins in 0-5
- Focused on Educational attainment and living wage jobs
- ELAC Priority 1: Improve Learning and Readiness for Kindergarten
  - Early Learning Standards
    - Happening in parallel with K-12 standards
    - Gone through review process involving stakeholder groups and public comment
    - Standards define expectations of what children should be able to do before kindergarten
    - Key building block to ensure high quality programming
    - Standards are posted on IDOE website, also available in Spanish
    - Alignment to science of reading
    - Learning Lab has supports for implementing early learning standards
    - Extensive professional development planned
      - Working with Education Service Centers to have five summits
      - In person, virtual and hybrid opportunities
      - Asynchronous opportunities will also become available
    - Going alongside K-12 and providing curriculum recommendations in March of 24
    - Taken a look at isprout to ensure alignment with new standards
    - RFP posted for a KG readiness assessment
- ELAC Priority 2: Increase the Supply and Sustainability of High-Quality Providers
  - Reimbursement Rate
    - Town halls to share methodology and get comment
    - One of the first states to implement this
    - Transition will adjust some rates lower than providers were getting with the 20% increase during the pandemic, continuing to fund until the next round as a transition
    - Building out a public report
    - Coming alongside childcare providers to educate them on true cost of care to help identify and reduce disparities and inequities
- ELAC Priority 3: Increase Affordability, Particularly for Vulnerable Families
  - Expanded Family Eligibility
    - Bill went through legislative session
    - State plan amended to match



- Expansion will add about 11,000 more children
- Now income is around \$45,000 per year for a family of four
- Newly eligible families that are eligible should wait to apply until Aug. 1 due to system enhancement updates
- On My Way PreK can go ahead and apply
- ELAC Priority 4: Improve and Increase System Capacity
  - Child care Expansion Grants
    - SEA 2
    - Cap for existing programs is \$200,000
    - Cap for new program is \$750,000
    - Very high engagement, nearly 1900 applications from all across the state, many different settings
    - Plan to release final awards in August
  - Regulatory Review/HEA 1591
    - Two charges assigned to ELAC from IGA
      - PTQ recommendations
      - Regulatory Review
    - Beginning work in Mid august
    - Using guiding principles to guide the work
    - Jeff Capizzano, Policy Equity Group - Supporting the charges from IGA by:
      - Facilitating interview/focus groups
      - Evaluating existing regulations
      - Landscape reviews
      - Validation studies
      - Consult with national experts
    - QRIS overview
    - We need to think about moving providers in a direction that help child outcomes
- Public Comment
  - Kelly Dawn Jones, Childcare provider
    - System is not working for family childcare providers
    - Not able to come together because they are working
    - Excited to hear Jeff discuss relationships
    - Working wage is elephant in the room
      - Needs to be center of conversation
    - How do we keep the quality providers we have and get more?
    - On the verge of closing everyday
    - If we quit, then who?
    - Appreciate the information
    - Close to the answer



- Address the wage issue and benefit issue
- People can get better jobs elsewhere
- Background check rules are not helping
- Want to build profession to work together not compete
- Where are the ARPA funds?
  - Courtney Penn – Bulk of funds were spent to give providers 20% over market rates
- Jeri McCorkle – formerly director of Rush County Childcare Coalition
  - TRAC initiative – Training, Resource and Advocacy Connection
  - Using Readi funding
  - Working on the issue of compensation
- Adjournment – 2:30pm

**Next Business Meeting:** September 12, 2023 1-3pm, Bloomington, IN