



Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee

-September 12, 2023
Ivy Tech Community College
200 Daniels Way
Bloomington, IN 47404
Call to Order: 1pm ET

Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/live/3Hpic91846M?si=HJ1-jv2Aw7TRhAU>

Attendance in Person: Maureen Weber, Kim Brooks, Tonia Carriger, Erin Donovan, Rob Moorhead, Courtney Penn, Sherry Searles, Kelli Servizzi, Susan Keough

Attendance Virtually: Madeleine Baker, Mark Chamberlain, Betsey Delgado, Lisa Johnson

- Call to Order – 1:00pm
- Approval of [Agenda](#) & July Minutes
 - Motion: Kimberly Brooks
 - Second: Tonia Carriger
 - Motion Passes
- Chair's Report – Maureen Weber
 - Thank you to ITCC for hosting
 - We saw three great models today
 - Ministry, Center and FCC Provider
 - Used to work in healthcare
 - We want experts to do what they do best not worry about parking in the right place etc., and I feel that way about the providers we say today.
 - Want them to focus on the business of teaching and learning
 - Excited to learn about the new state initiative, Imagination Library, intended to help address the literacy gaps across Indiana
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
 - Marcus Whited – Director of Monroe County Imagination Library
 - Dolly was inspired by her father, he was unable to read or write
 - Program started in 1995
 - Gifting books to children from B-5 free of charge
 - Shared funding through state and community partners
 - Provided 2.4 million high quality, age appropriate books per month
 - 2,881 children have received books from their program alone
 - Numbers have grown monthly
 - Expansion goal is to reach another 6k children in Indiana
 - Loves seeing how much this means to parents
 - Database updated daily on program



Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee

- Minimal participation from affiliate
- Kelli Servizzi – IDOE
 - Came along to support initiative
 - In Indiana Learning Lab you can find a reading guide for every book available in Imagination Library
 - Gives tips for read aloud, music and movement and other activities
 - State library is building out Indiana's team
- Sherry Searles
 - FAQ on Dolly Parton website
- Director's Report
 - 2023 Recommendations Report Update
 - Courtney Hott – ELAC
 - Annual report due at end of November
 - Based on last years three year plan submission we will be updating and resubmitting with progress and updates
 - Using this time to update where we are with these projects welcoming comments and discussions around it
 - Updated on all roadmap progress – see [meeting materials](#)
 - Maureen – you're working on a progress plan?
 - Courtney – Yes! We will bring the dashboard to the next meeting
 - Rob - I appreciate your update and I am excited to see the streamlined pathway for LEAs to be a priority. PTQ has been a challenge for smaller rural schools. All the people have been so helpful but the red tape is a huge barrier.
 - Kim – Even larger districts are facing barriers, we appreciate that there is a look into what is happening.
 - Mark – interested in private sector bullet, this is timely because the competition in labor market is tight so anything we can do to add and make it more attractive to come work for us is a big piece. My question is when will more detail about the tax credit come out?
 - Courtney – Working with DOR on guidance
- Provider & Community Spotlight
 - Monroe County Early Learning Substitute Educator Pool Pilot
 - Jennifer Myers- Monroe Smart Start & Courtney Penn – OECOSL Director
 - 18 mos ago IN realized a workforce need
 - OECOSL began shared services pilot
 - Goal was to build a repository so that providers could lean into tried and true caregivers to support them in their work
 - Hub has 14 programs
 - WonderSchool helps support this work
 - Call the subs ELSEs (pronounced EL-SEE)
 - A lot of background work went into this



Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee

- Turnover costs are incredibly expensive and by using the sub portal this can be reduced
- Kim Brooks – How long does onboarding take?
 - As soon as two weeks to a month, depends how quickly they want to complete
- Sherry – is there a timeline to expand this across the state?
 - Yes, there will be a phase two in her local area and expanded it in other locations in Lake and Vanderburg Counties.
- ELAC Priority 1: Improve Learning and Readiness for Kindergarten
 - HEA 1591 update – Paths to Quality
 - Stakeholder group finalized
 - Engaging families across the state
 - First stakeholder group meets Sept. 22
- ELAC Priority 3: Increase Affordability, Particularly for Vulnerable Families
 - Employer Expansion Grant
 - Employer Sponsored Childcare Fund - 25million in relief dollars to increase access to high quality childcare
 - Initiative is based on offering funds to employers to support childcare for their employees
 - More curated list for allowable expenses
 - Could be used for a tri-share (federal funds, employer portion and family portion)
 - Initial conversations were around businesses with 20+ employees
 - Community infrastructure investments which means smaller entities can come together to apply together for the grants
 - Kelli – school corps are eligible?
 - Yes.
 - IDOE and OECOSL are hosting a webinar for school corps interested in applying for this grant on Oct 4
 - Licensing Workgroup
 - Leveraging a lawyer with federal relief funds to do a deep dive analysis on regulatory scope. Narrowing out what is truly health and safety requirements and what is quality related.
- ELAC Priority 4: Improve and Increase System Capacity
 - Alignment of new proposed CCDF rule & Indiana's Priorities
 - Sue McKinney- Director of Operations OECOSL
 - New rules focus on four key areas
 - Lowering family cost
 - Increasing options for families
 - Strengthen payment practices for providers



Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee

- Make program enrollment easier and faster for families
 - Estimated timeline is 2024
 - Four ELAC priorities apply to all components
 - Setting a rate that aligns with cost of care regardless of what provider charges private pay families
 - We already do this and will continue to refine our model for Oct 2024
 - Transitioning to a pay by enrollment with our new system, INkids, and are looking to implement sooner if we can
 - New rule proposes a max copay of 7% of income. Currently copays can range from 5-26%
 - Seeks to expand copay waivers for families with children with disabilities and make 150% of FPL
 - Expand agreement center contracts to build supply
 - Utilizing presumptive eligibility by using enrollment in another public benefit program to confirm eligibility to speed up process
 - Implementing a new application and navigating in new INkids program
 - Madeleine- this is a time for a big applause as Indiana makes strides in these areas
- Public Comment
 - Kelly Dawn Jones, Love Your Child's Care – Declined
 - Brandy Pohl, Seeds Early Learning
 - Kelly Sipes, Bloomington Day Care Corp.
 - Christy Olsen, IU Bloomington Early Childhood Education Services
 - Noel Hanson, Kid Angels: The Early Education School
- Adjournment – 2:50pm

Next Business Meeting: November 8, 2023 1-3pm, Indianapolis, IN