



Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Early Learning Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 4, 2026,

10 a.m. EST

CAPTRUST Building

3100 Village Point, Chesterton, IN 46304

Present: Sam Snideman, Adam Alson, Ashleigh Moon, Anna Shults, Sam Charron, Shannon Kohl, Jennifer Myers, Mark Chamberlain, Dr. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Allie Sutherland

Virtual: Rob Moorhead

Absent: Stacy Atkinson

State Staff: Holly Brauneller—Director of the Early Learning Advisory Committee, Lisa Mettler, Tawni Brown, Amanda De Ross, Sarah Dickerson, Mikaya Auerbach, Micheal Miles

A quorum was established at 9:02 a.m.

- I. **Call to order** the meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. local time by Chairperson, Sam Snideman.
- II. **Public comment**
 - a. Maceo Rainey – Owner of Rainey Center, representative of northwest, IN.
 1. The Center specializes in child care outside traditional business hours (9-5) for those working at Amazon, FedEx, Steel mills, etc. Mr. Rainey stressed the importance of putting families first as well as the state advancing funds for CCDF vouchers.
 - b. Martha Rae – Valparaiso early child care stakeholder
 1. Ms. Rae sighted Senator Young's bill for before and after-hours care for children. Ms. Rae brought forward concerns about adequate tracking of data for Indiana child care. She requested the creation of a safety regulation dashboard. An ELAC member reminded Ms. Rae, and fellow members, that Summer Study Projects/ Proposals are outside of the committee's jurisdiction.
- III. **Approval of April Minutes:** April meeting minutes were approved. Mark Chamberlain motioned to approve, Dr. Kwiatkowski seconded. All in favor; none against.
- IV. **Chair Report – Sam Snideman**
 - a. Summer session—study topics announced:

1. Fiscal committee studying child care funding (another study is on child welfare, but geared more to DCS).
 2. Chairs of committees set parameters for meeting time, place, etc.
 3. List of committee representatives and meetings dates have yet to be decided.
- b. Rule making
1. Updated rules ([LSA 26-158](#) & [LSA 26-159](#)) have been published on the Indiana Administrative Rules and Policies website. The public is encouraged to participate in the rule making process through public comment and other channels.
- c. Mr. Snideman visited the Charter School of the Dunes. This is a new facility that serves low income and underprivileged families.

V. Discussion Agenda

- a. First Things First - Dr. Mary Jane Eisenhower - 30 years in early education.
1. First Things First is a coordinator; they don't provide direct support to children or families. First Things First is working towards the goal of making Indiana a quality place to have and raise a child. In the next 5 years, this organization aims to serve all 7,000 children under age 4. Porter County has taken steps to improve and update playgrounds, grocery stores, emergency care kits that EMS and Police carry.
- b. Head Start Collaboration Office (HSCO) – Ashleigh Moon, OECOSL. Tawni Brown will be assisting in the presentation but is now the Head Start Collaboration Director
1. HSCO supports children age birth – 5-years old, as well prenatal care for families who need it at no cost to families. The organization strengthens early childhood systems including education, child care, health, and family services. Funding for HSCO comes from the federal level, causing the funds to flow differently than at the state level.
 2. Tawni Brown recapped ELAC workgroup meeting touching on how HSCO and ELAC can partner together to achieve new strategic objectives. These objectives include: Workforce wellbeing pilot, access and affordability in rural areas, extend workforce support beyond pay, working closely with CCDF, and starting social media campaign to share stories.
- c. Rule Making Status – Amanda DeRoss
1. The Child Care Homes, Child Care Centers, and Child Care ministries/ CCDF/ school age rules are currently in two different positions. The Home & Centers rules have been published, and the public hearing will take place on July 6, 2026. The Child care ministries/ CCDF/ School age rules

have not been approved yet. Once approved a public hearing date will be announced. All drafts of these rules will be published online.

d. OECOSL Voucher Enrollment – Lisa Mettler

1. PDG voucher enrollment began May 13 focused in 33 counties. At this point 451 infants and toddlers, and 83 siblings are enrolled in the program. The second round of enrollment started on June 1. At this point 548 infants and toddlers, and 248 siblings are enrolled. These numbers are subject to change, since enrollment has just begun.
2. Voucher enrollment funded by the FROG appropriation began May 25, 2026. 3,000 families have been notified that they are ready to receive a CCDF voucher. OECOSL is exploring how the child care environment is shifting to accommodate the increase in volume from vouchers.

e. Quarterly Financial Review (QFR) - Adam Alson, OECOSL

1. OECOSL is working very closely with DCS to provide Priority groups (Kinship/ foster/ DCS needs) with vouchers.
2. The \$200 million state appropriation is the largest child care investment in the State's history. It increases the state appropriation for CCDF vouchers from \$40 million to \$240 million for SFY 2027. This is a 500% increase in state funding to the child care sector.
3. Each CCDF voucher is a set of cash flows with complex, embedded optionality that, in aggregate, creates a multiple year obligation of uncertain length for the state of Indiana. Continued state funding will be required to continue to fund the increased CCDF vouchers that will be enrolled with the FROG appropriation.

VI. **Adjourn:** The meeting was called to adjourn by Chairperson Sam Snideman at 11:45am local time. Mark Chamberlain motioned to approve, Sam Charron seconded, and all were in favor; none against.

Next Committee Meeting:

Data: August 17, 2026

Time: 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: French Lick Springs Resort Windsor A
8670 West State Road 56. French Lick, Indiana 47432

Planned 2026 Meetings:

September 29, 2026 (Central Indiana)

November 12, 2026 (Muncie, Indiana)