



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

Illinois Professional Development System

PDAC Steering Committee December 17, 2014

Anne Wharff
Beth Knight
Cass Wolfe
Christy Allen
Dawn Thomas
Deb Widenhofer
Deborah Rogers-Jaye
Diana Rosenbrock

Donna Emmons
Joellyn Whitehead
Johnna Darragh-Ernst
Joni Scritchlow
Julie Lindstrom
Karen McCarthy
Lauri Morrison-Frichtl

Laurie Rhodes
Lisa Downey
Marsha Hawley
Rebecca Livengood
Sharyl Robin
Sue Deason
Tammy Notter

Welcome – Deb Widenhofer and Cass Wolfe, Co – Chairs

- Attendees were welcomed to the meeting.
- PDAC Mission, Vision, and Values were read by Cass Wolfe

Review and Approval of the Minutes (Attachment 1)

- October 15, 2014
 - Amend minutes: change the spelling of Lauri Morrison Frichtl's name
 - Minutes approved with the amendment.

Status Updates for PDAC Strategic Plan Phase VI

- In preparation of the January PDAC Steering retreat, committees will report on the status of the current strategic plan by reviewing goals and objectives that committees have accomplished and can roll off the plan, or goals and objectives that need to carry over to the new plan.
 - Qualifications and Credentials Committee
 - Goal: Review, develop, and implement Gateways to Opportunity Credentials
 - On track to meet all objectives.
 - Goal: Improve access and incentivizing of Gateways to Opportunity Credentials
 - The committee has met several of the objectives.
 - Have not met the goals of embedding Gateways Credentials into licensing standards. The committee will continue to work on this objective.
 - Goal: Ensure credentialed practitioners reflect the diversity of the children and families served.

- The committee has not worked on this objective. The committee believes the goal is beyond the scope of the Qualifications and Credentials Committee.
- Financial Supports
 - The work of the Financial Supports Committee has been suspended. Committee members are working with the ELC PSQ Ad Hoc Workforce Compensation committee.
 - The ELC PSQ Ad Hoc committee has an 18 month timeframe.
 - Information and findings from the committee will be shared with various councils around the state including Illinois Early Learning Council and PDAC.
 - A subset of work will need to continue through the Financial Supports committee following the conclusion of the ELC PSQ Ad Hoc Committee.
- Workforce Development and Pathways Committee
 - Goal: Develop strategies and policies to increase the workforce's qualifications, education, and compensation.
 - The committee is on target for this objective by developing infographs.
 - Goal: Gain cross sector agreement on an integrated/common language and definitions related to workforce roles and education/qualifications.
 - The committee decided to table this goal indefinitely.
 - Goal: Enhance the Gateways to Opportunity Career Lattice to include multiple access points and dimensions of quality to allow for greater utilization.
 - Current state wide discussions are under way on the topic of stackable credentials.
 - Discussions and work on stackable credentials will inform future committee work on the Gateways to Opportunity Career Lattice.
 - Goal: Influence college coursework to be reflective of current research and best practices while providing students with an opportunity to put theory into practice before entering the field.
 - The committee has not yet addressed this goal.
- Information, Analysis, and Trends
 - The committee plans to keep their objectives and goals the same for the next phase of the strategic plan.
 - The committee has an ongoing goal of trying to recruit more committee members.
 - At the retreat, the Steering Committee will review all committee lists to see if members can move to the IAT committee.
- PDAC Governance Committee
 - Goal: Create a leadership development plan.
 - The committee has not spent a great of time on this goal.

- Will carry over the leadership development plan to Phase VII of the Strategic Plan.
- Goal: Maintain well-defined processes and protocols to support PDAC decision making.
 - The committee has spent the majority of time working on the PDAC Operating Guidelines and Procedures document.
- Steering Committee
 - Goal: Maintain a diverse fully cross-sector PDAC membership.
 - Will be an ongoing objective for the committee.
 - Goal: Build effective relationships with state agencies, advocates, and others, to support professional development in Illinois.
 - The committee is actively focused on this goal, and will be a focus of the January retreat.

Planning for January PDAC Steering Retreat

- The PDAC Steering Retreat will be held on January 8 and 9, 2015.
 - The retreat will be held at The Chateau Hotel and Conference Center at 1601 Jumer Dr., Bloomington, IL 61704.
 - Hotel confirmation information will be sent to committee members before the end of the month.
 - Emerging themes
 - Federal landscape
 - Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Reauthorization
 - Reauthorized for the first time since 1997.
 - Key changes move the field closer to the idea of comprehensive childcare and services for low income families.
 - Eligibility period of 12 months.
 - Licensed exempt providers will have new requirements
 - The reauthorization will allow decoupling the childcare schedule from the work schedule as part of family-friendly and child focused policies
 - A series of meetings coordinated by the Feds will be held starting in January 2015 to review the new requirements.
 - Anne Wharff and Cass Wolfe will research and bring forward additional information for the January retreat.
 - Head Start
 - Four grants awarded in Illinois: City of Chicago, Proviso Leydon Council for Community Action in Maywood, City of Rockford Human Services Department and Child Care Resources and Referral in Joliet.
 - Illinois granted 18.1 million dollars.
 - The government could announce more grantees.

- Implication for professional development, need to have infant toddler CDA tied to our credential.
 - Lauri Morrison Frichtl and Tammy Notter will research chocolate and bring forward additional information for the January retreat.
- Preschool for All Expansion
 - Illinois is one of thirteen states that received an expansion grant.
 - Illinois granted 20 million dollars.
 - The grants are being loaded into the E-grant system.
 - Eighteen communities in Illinois will be served by the grant with 2,600 new slots and 680 enhanced slots appropriated.
 - Donna Emmons and Karen McCarthy will research and bring forward additional information for the January retreat.
- United States Department of Education
 - Karen McCarthy suggested PDAC invite a representative from the Educator Preparation Division (possibly Jason Helfer) from the Illinois State Board of Education to call-in/come to a future meeting to give a presentation on the new proposal.
 - During the January Steering Retreat information from the ELC-PSQ HELP committee will be used to help build foundational knowledge around the new proposal.
 - Johnna Darragh-Ernst and Debbie Rogers-Jaye will research and bring forward information from the HELP committee for the January retreat.
- Home Visiting
 - Deb Widenhofer and Lauri Morrison Frichtl will research and bring forward additional information for the January retreat.
- Illinois landscape
 - Politics
 - Illinois will have a new governor soon after the retreat. The impact on budgets and policies are unknown at this time. PDAC needs to be aware of potential changes.
 - Anne Wharff and Christi Chadwick will give overviews at the January retreat.
 - Race-to-the Top Early Learning Challenge
 - ExceleRate Illinois and Professional Development
 - Christy Allen, Sharyl Robin, and Tammy Notter will research and prepare and information for the January retreat.
 - Credentials
 - Diana Rosenbrock, Marsha Hawley, and Joni Scritchlow will research and prepare information to share with the committee at the January retreat.

- Historically PDAC has worked with a two year strategic planning cycle.
 - PDAC Steering might want to consider a three year cycle.
 - The PDAC plan is integrated into the Illinois Department of Human Services' Illinois State Plan which is then submitted federally. The State Plan is moving toward a three year cycle (July 2015 - June 2018).
 - The Illinois Early Learning Council is using a three year strategic plan cycle.
 - The current Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Funding cycle ends December 2016.
 - The IDHS Childhood Advisory Board is extending their current plan with the DCFS strategic plan.
 - Donna Emmons and Karen McCarthy will inquire if the Illinois State Board of Education has a strategic plan, and if so, for the entire agency, or plans for each division.
 - PDAC is constantly beginning and ending a plan. A three year plan could give each committee more time to thoughtfully set and accomplish goals.
 - Steering should make a decision at the retreat if committees are to focus on a two or three year plan.
 - Cass Wolfe would like to have chart or timeline of other plans (ELC PSQ etc.) with expiration dates, and key dates (i.e. RTT) that will impact on Steering's planning.

Announcements

- The PDAC May 2015 Steering Retreat will not be held in conjunction with the Leadership Connections National Leadership Conference. Details regarding the May retreat will be shared with committee members in the near future.

Adjourn

