

IGA GOVERNING BOARD
Concerning
Early Childhood Education
September 27, 2017
260 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Jim Taglia, Cara Pavlicek, Bob Spatz, Keecia Broy, Carol Kelley, Jennifer Cassell, Jackie Moore, Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, and recording secretary Sheryl Marinier

Absent: Simone Boutet

Also Present: Carolyn Newberry Schwartz, Felicia Starks Turner, Amy McCormick, Debbie McCann, Laura Crawford, Erin Murchison, Chapin Hall representative Bob Goerge and Greg Sanders

REQUIRED ITEMS

ELECTION OF IGA GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS

The board was reminded that officers rotate through the three boards. It is District 97's turn to run the meetings this year, and it will be District 200's turn next year. In the past it has been the practice that the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary be held by elected officials.

Bob Spatz representing District 97 was nominated as President, Jennifer Cassell representing District 200 was nominated as Vice President and Jim Taglia representing the Village board was nominated as secretary. All three were unanimously elected.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 22, 2017

Jackie Moore made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 22, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by President Spatz.

Ayes: Moore, Spatz, Broy, Cassell, Kelley, Pavlicek, Pruitt-Adams, Taglia

Nays: None

Absent: Boutet

Motion passed.

REPORT ON CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION

Amy McCormack, chairperson of the Collaboration board shared the progress report for the Collaboration. She reported that the Collaboration has a new mission statement which better articulates what they are doing.

"We champion high quality early childhood care and learning experiences and support for families so all children develop their full potential."

McCormack shared a summary of the work being performed by the Collaboration.

She reported that the Parent Support program did extensive needs assessment and hired a full-time coordinator, Jennifer Little. Little is supporting parents and childcare professionals, working on a Kindergarten awareness campaign, and created a playgroup site on the Website. The group is working on a coordinated intake process for home cases and making sure that parents get the right resources.

It was reported that developmental screening is experiencing a huge growth with over 30 sites participating. There has been an eight percent increase in vision and hearing screenings and 13 percent increase in developmental screenings.

The Collaboration has begun to engage childcare providers in professional development, and began preparations for their annual symposium which offered 30 workshops to over 300 attendees.

Additionally, it was noted that Oak Park is one of two communities chosen by Erikson Institute to participate in a pilot program.

The Collaboration is now conducting preliminary screenings for the pre-Kindergarten program at Longfellow, making sure that the most high risk children are getting the services they need.

It was noted that the Collaboration has made strides in the data base. The Collaboration has more linked data in one location than any other organization in any other community. It was reported that data has been collected via the data sharing agreements with the State, District 97, Chapin Hall and all three home visiting agencies. The program has been approved for a \$90,000 multi-year grant from Grand Victoria Foundation which it will use to create a robust profile of 2015-2016 Kindergarten children including risk characteristics.

It was reported that the Collaboration welcomed three new board members, Gina Wall, Marcus Crook and Jason Smith, and that the total and individual giving increased.

Additionally, it was noted that social emotional screenings will take place in October, and on October 25, 2017, a forum event will be held that will address changes in policy. Representative Kimberly Lightford's office will be represented there.

It was reported that a new program entitled Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) will be the primary intake mechanism used to reach the low income families. COFI empowers parents through a training series about organizing around issues in their community and being an advocate and ambassador for other families who feel they are not being heard. Little will start by partnering with District 97 and identifying the right partners in the community. A seven week training will take place on this topic beginning in January.

Newberry Schwartz shared that the McCormick Foundation asked her to participate in a conference, however; she noted that Oak Park does not have the same kind of needs. She noted that McCormick is funding EDI, but Oak Park is not getting direct funding, only some small grants.

MEASURING PROGRESS: REPORT ON CONTRACT INDICATORS

Debbie McCann came to the table with Data Manager Laura Crawford, and Chapin Hall representatives Bob Goerge and Greg Sanders.

Goerge reported that the Collaboration is unique. He shared that everyone has been working on integrated data and the Collaboration is a place where it can actually be applied. He reported the goal is to inform program development and to measure progress intended to inform program development and implementation.

Goerge reported that Chapin Hall now has the new data that he has been promising for years. Chapin Hall has been using information from the District 97 Infosnap system which includes mobility, preschool history, and history of services received during early childhood.

He noted that as much as everyone would like things in the state to be stable, they are not. He explained that as they mature; data collection mechanisms change, providers change, and state and federal policies change. This requires close working relationships with the people who provide the data, and we need to make sure we understand what is being shared. We need to have continuous conversations in order to improve data quality. The goal is to empower everyone to use the data to inform.

The demographic profiles of children ages 0-5 in Oak Park were shared which showed minimal change. The data indicated that the number of African American children in the 0-5 range is decreasing, and other races appear to be increasing. The numbers in River Forest were all within the margin of error. Goerge noted that there is stability over this time period.

Interest was expressed in telling the story about the high school African American population, as it is currently at 24 or 25 percent, and it was noted that the African American population in River Forest has doubled.

Goerge noted the need for more current data from the state on births. It was noted that Oak Park has tracked race for decades and could share that data.

Goerge noted that the number of Kindergarten children is increasing steadily. He noted that 15 percent of the 2015-2016 Kindergarten cohort came from families that received Snap benefits at or before the time they enrolled in District 97. 58 percent of African American children received Snap during or prior to their Kindergarten enrollment, compared to 24 percent of Hispanic children and 2 percent of white children. Goerge reported that about one third of the families who had children in the 2015-2016 Kindergarten class were not born in Oak Park, but moved into Oak Park prior to entering Kindergarten, meaning that two thirds of the families were living here when the children were born. He noted no difference in the rate of mobility by race, gender or age at Kindergarten entry, but suggested that this data could be reviewed for clarity. Newberry Schwartz shared that the Collaboration is trying to identify the children who are off the grid (near homeless).

Debbie McCann explained the scoring mechanism used to rank the 10 outcome indicators and reported on a few of them. She noted that the data (which is sometimes incomplete) indicates that the Collaboration needs to pay closer attention to patterns of efficiency within sub groups. McCann explained that the mechanism looks at a total of 38 different areas, but the Collaboration chose only 10 to share in this report.

Child Outcome 3 – KRT

McCann noted that while the community made positive progress overall on this indicator, it has cut a hole in the middle because the percentage of FRPL (students achieving proficiency) has increased by two percent, the percentage of FRPL students in PFA/HS decreased by three percent. She noted that data

collection improved this past year for the children enrolled in the publically funded programs; with 96 percent completing the KRT. However, the percentage of all children with KRT scores in this cohort is only at 83 percent. Additionally, it was noted that there are increasing numbers of children who are proficient each year.

Service Delivery

Newberry Schwartz reported that the progress in this area has been upgraded to green since more low income children have a history of attending high-quality preschool. However, there is still significant work that needs to be done to find and enroll more of the lower income children in Preschool for All and Head Start programs. Due to improvements in District 97's enrollment system, the Collaboration has better data on preschool attendance.

She explained that the next steps are to complete the profiles of the 2015-2016 children using available new state administrative data, and with a focus on low income status and updated ACS data if possible; provide new values for System Outcome Measures two and three, and send the outcome values to committees to begin work on progress targets for outcome, and program and data collection activities.

PLANNING THE NOVEMBER MEETING

It was reported that the last year of the contract provides retrospect of where we started and where we are. It provides an overview of the progress in developing the database and key data points marking our progress. Newberry Schwartz asked the board to identify what they would consider important information to share with the full boards. She reminded everyone that the joint meeting will be held at the high school.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

COLLABORATION FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017

Gordon Hellwig, Vice President of Community Bank and Treasurer for the Collaboration reported that the Balance Sheets indicate that the Collaboration is in a very good financial situation. He noted that the total expenses and the funding provided are much less than budgeted. He reported that the funding agencies were invoiced every two months, but they were not invoiced for the last two month period as the money was not needed.

He explained that the expenses were less than budgeted because of the transition of the Collaboration over the last two years. He reported on the transition from Parenthesis to Easter Seals, the hiring of Jennifer Little in January, 2017, and noted that Easter Seals now has two parent educators. He recommended that the surplus money from the governing agencies be returned to them, but did not recommend an amount.

Hellwig indicated that he expects the budget to be closer to expenditures in the future. He explained the history of the IGA funding, and indicated that the EDI may show gaps in service that could utilize some of the reserve funds. Additionally, he indicated that the data base expense is expected to increase. It was reported that this board will see a preliminary fiscal year 2019 budget in January.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT – OVERVIEW OF PROCESS AND UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION

Newberry Schwartz reported that Erikson Institute is hoping to have the Early Development Instrument (EDI) become a standard across Illinois. Efforts are being made to inform the community about EDI. Newberry Schwartz and Dr. Carol Kelley are champions for EDI and working together for its success.

A 103 question survey on student progress will be completed in January. The survey takes 15 minutes per student to complete, and is tied to their home address. Erikson will map the results of the survey, along with additional information given to them. Once completed, the map will chart developmental scores. It was reported that some of the private schools will also participate in the process. This data will help respond to the question; “How are the children?”

It was shared that a map has been put on display in the back of the room. Everyone was asked to find their home on the map, draw an “X” or dot where their home is located, and draw a line around what they consider to be their neighborhood. It was suggested that geo-mapping could demonstrate patterns that are not expected.

It was noted that a pilot team guiding this effort is made up of about 12 people, includes representatives from the Park’s Department, Village, and Library. A community meeting will be held on November 16, 2017. Plans for this meeting are currently underway.

It was reported that teachers will be paid for completing the EDI and the training at their contractual rate. This expenditure was anticipated and has been allocated.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE ON IGA

FINANCE

It was reported that the Financial Report was sent out to members electronically. The reserve fund is several hundred thousand dollars, and it was suggested that the balance be reviewed and a recommendation be made on what to do with it. It was noted that Peter Barber had recommended a formula before he left the governing board. Everyone agreed to continue this discussion during the February meeting. Cara Pavlicek, Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams and Dr. Carol Kelley agreed to meet and consider options for the surplus. It was agreed that an update on the unspent contract funds will be shared in November after review by the auditors.

PLANNING FOR TRI-BOARD MEETING – DATE AND PRIMARY TOPIC

The board was reminded that the next Tri-Board meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2017. The meeting will be held at the high school. Items that need to be included on the agenda included;

- Data report
- Five year retrospect
- Financial and Audit report

MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

ERIKSON – EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Barbara Bowman Leadership Fellows

It was shared that District 97 administrator Felicia Starks Turner and Carolyn Newberry Schwartz have been accepted as Barbara Bowman Leadership Fellows. This is a 10 month course focusing on early childhood advocacy, creating a positive statement, and learning how to be advocates and move legislature. This is a grant funded program, so there is no cost to the Collaboration or District 97. The program meets every third Friday.

McCormick Foundation Executive Fellows – Bob Spatz and Dr. Carol Kelley

Bob Spatz and Dr. Carol Kelley have been chosen to participate in the McCormick Foundation Executive Fellows. They meet with 20 other leaders including police, mayors, and school superintendents. The

program met twice in August and will meet for half a day in October. It was noted that this is a great opportunity to network with others involved in early childhood.

State Changes

It was reported that the State is reviewing the application process for publically funded pre-schools. The State may give preference to schools that already have programs. Currently the submission date is questionable. There is speculation that the State will prioritize communities in deep need which may jeopardize some of the funding for Oak Park. It was suggested that the District 97 connection with the early childhood sector may be beneficial. The community is currently receiving about \$300,000 for 3,000 children. It is possible that the State will be looking to support full-day spots, so the community may need to consider making that a priority.

Developmental screening requirements

A meeting is scheduled in October to discuss social/emotional and developmental screenings. Moving forward, a family will be required to have a form filled out by a doctor for social/emotional and development every time they have a medical form completed for their school. The form does not report the results of the screening, just verification that the screening occurred. Parents will have the ability to refuse the screening, but the schools would then have to complete the process. A task force has been put together to consider screening tools for this purpose. Interest was expressed in knowing if the community has the services in place to support children in need.

Budget update

President Spatz reported that a school funding formula is now in existence. He shared that the details are not clear, but he believes that early childhood funding will increase.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Marinier
Secretary to the District 97 Board of Education