

IGA Governing Board – Draft Minutes
Concerning: Early Childhood Collaboration
Wednesday, February 19, 2020
Village of Oak Park, Room 101
123 Madison Street, Oak Park, IL 60302

Call to Order

Chair Arti Walker-Peddakotla called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Jackie Moore, Joylynn Pruitt-Adams (left at 8:03 p.m.), Cheree Moore, Katherine Murray-Liebl, Jim Taglia, Arti Walker-Peddakotla, Cara Pavlicek, and recording secretary Vicki Scaman.

Absent: Sara Spivy, and Dr. Carol Kelley.

Also present: John Borrero, Laura Crawford, David Weindling, Penny Wallingford, and Carolina Song.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by member Joylynn Pruitt-Adams and seconded by member Jackie Moore to approve the agenda as presented. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by member Jackie Moore and seconded by member Joylynn Pruitt-Adams to approve the minutes from October 31, 2019. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Public Comment - none

Collaboration Financial Report

David Weindling presented the financial report as Treasurer of the Early Childhood Collaboration Board. The report was positively received with discussion regarding 2019 financial statements and review of the preliminary budget for 2020-2021, including efforts for identifying future revenue and expenditures.

Administrative Update on the IGA

After discussion regarding bank balance and schedule for invoicing governmental partners, referencing the IGA as amended in 2016, it was suggested by member Cara Pavlicek that Patrick King from D97 (fiscal agent) be present at future meetings. Member Joylynn Pruitt-Adams agreed. Member Katherine Murray-Liebl will follow-up with Patrick to respond and Chair Arti Walker-Peddakotla will follow-up. Recording Secretary Vicki Scaman will provide a copy of the 2013 IGA and 2016 amendments to members.

Discussion: Equity and Early Childhood

John Borrero presented on equity as related to early childhood development and collaboration initiatives; cultural research highlights, applying research to community practice “Race for Results”, overview of local OP/RF data, and supporting a long term equity lens. He shared how important training related to race needs to include gender specific information. Chair Walker-Peddakotla brought forward the importance of GARE racial equity training for assessing policies that contribute to racial inequalities. John responded that learning from GARE is an opportunity for growth. Four areas of focus include family engagement, early learning, health and development, and community partnerships. Environmental analysis strengths as discussed by the IGA Board included; resources/finances, two health (RUSH, WestSub), community commitment to early childhood, relationship with Erickson/ Chapin Hall, Dominican and Concordia University, continuum of services for children of different ages – the Township was mentioned specifically as a connector, and reputation of the Collaboration with community leaders as spokes people. Weaknesses included; reaching all families, cultural engagement (age, language, socio-economic diversity), meeting people where they are, some families have different access to information and resources, and lack of affordable high quality child care for all. Mr. Borrero also referenced the work that still needs to be done to bring the community together for this cause and engage River Forest as we further define community. Opportunities discussed included; engaging GARE, including foster care setting as a contributor to the dialogue, further evaluating school to prison pipeline, understanding disciplinary behavior, and engaging law enforcement. It is desired to broaden conversations so to not look at data as a deficit conversation and maintain a community focus moving away from a child deficit perspective. Discussion was had regarding the need to look at sub-data to better understand systemic racial inequities and assessing need for systemic change. Ideally there would be further data sharing with longitudinal studies – looking at children over the lifespan and across systems and not making assumptions about the backgrounds of families. What does child safety, community safety, defining what safety for our families look likes and how can the Collab help inform these definitions and understanding what it looks like when a child grows up in our environment. Threats as discussed by the IGA Board included; sustainability related to tax concerns, lack of understanding around toxic stress impact and adversity, need for development opportunities and care for caregivers universally, working around privacy issues vs. data sharing, challenges posed from the election cycle, sharing history and importance of the Early Childhood Collaboration work universally, engaging River Forest, complacency and the inability to have real conversations about racial equity, and lack of urgency to prioritize racial equity progress. Mr. Borrero highlighted collab accomplishments including; 2 rounds of equity training for 30 preschools and K teachers and 12 preschool teachers, early childhood mental health consultation with classroom support from Tywana Rice, 80-90 people trained at the equity summit, 90% of K classrooms participated in data collection, and over 300 people reached through community outreach around showing of “No Small Matters”.

Annual IGA Meeting: May 14, 2020 @ 6:30pm

John Borrero presented an agenda summary for the annual meeting; plan for progress, year in review, and board of directors reports including transitions and new members.

Adjournment

It was moved by member Jackie Moore and seconded by member Cara Pavlicek to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by, Vicki Scaman Recording Secretary