



ECRC Advisory Committee November 28, 2023 Meeting Summary

1. Agenda

- a. City Updates
- b. Partner Updates
- c. ECRC Executive Committee's Work
- d. New State agency updates and Q&A via a shared jam board.
- e. Please review the ECRC Nov 28 deck attached.

2. FY 24 City Budget:

- a. City Council's approval of Mayor Johnson's FY 24 budget priorities, which prioritizes public safety, mental health, infrastructure, crisis management, homelessness response, climate justice, and equity.

3. Newcomers Update:

- a. Rey Wences Najera, 1st Deputy of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Right's, shared updates on immigrant, migrants, and refugee rights, shelter crisis, and efforts to address the needs of newcomers arriving in Chicago. Rey also provided the current migrant status for the bus arrivals, police stations, and shelters. Lastly the 60-day shelter policy was also reviewed.
- b. Please review the November 28 and December 6 – Community Briefing deck attached.

4. Early Childhood Research Alliance of Chicago (EC-REACH):

- a. Maia Connors, Executive Director of EC-REACH, introduces the goal of EC-REACH to connect stakeholders in the early childhood ecosystem, answer research-powered questions, and surface deep questions that need to be addressed to improve early childhood in the city.
- b. Please visit the [EC-REACH website](#) for updates and opportunities.

5. Early Childhood Enrollment and Shelter Support Progress:

- a. Leslie McKinily, CPS Chief Officer – Early Childhood Education, reported increased enrollment with 79% of general seats full and half-day and full-day seats at 73% and 81.52% full respectively.
- b. Additionally, she discussed the role of the Office of Language and Culture in supporting newcomers, with a focus on placing families with young children near shelters or stations and assisting with pre-k and school-age enrollment.
- c. Sharay Johnson, Manager of Family Support Programs at DFSS, presented on DFSS's process, discussing the shelter system, enrollment status in various shelters and police districts, and the challenge of accessing shelters due to safety measures.

6. Birth to Five Region Progress and Early Childhood Education:

- a. Edna Navarro-Vidaurre, Regional Council Manager – City of Chicago, updated on the Birth to Five region's progress and priorities. She highlighted the council's prioritization



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of two recommendations out of five from their needs assessment, focusing on improving access and funding.

- b. Edna also shared the council's interest in understanding the landscape of mental and behavioral health resources in Chicago.

7. Racial Equity and Transition to Unified Early Childhood Agency:

- a. Ann Whalen, the new Early Childhood Transition Director at the state, outlined the process of transitioning to a unified early childhood agency, which will require legislative changes and will be a multi-year process, and emphasized the importance of racial equity.
- b. Please review the ECE Governance PPT 11.27.23 slide deck attached.

8. Child Care, PFA, and PI Background Check Challenges:

- a. Challenges faced by programs providing childcare, PFA, and PI due to background check issues.

9. ECRC Website Changes, Meeting Reflection, and Future Plans:

- a. Provided updates on the ECRC Executive Committee's work and plans for 2024.
- b. Announcement of ECRC website updates, providing access to meeting resources.
- c. Please visit the [ECRC website](#) for the meeting agendas and recordings.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns at ECRC@cityofchicago.org. Thank you all for your active participation.