



ECRC Advisory Committee January 30, 2024 Meeting Summary

1. Agenda

- a. ECRC Executive Committee Update
- b. Block Grant Listening Session
- c. Partner Updates
- d. ECRC Executive Committee Member Interest Form
 - i. Please review the ECRC Jan 30 deck attached.

2. ECRC Executive Committee Member Interest Form:

- a. The ECRC Executive Committee currently has four open seats, including two (2) for Community-Based Organizations, one (1) for an Early/Head Start Recipient, and one (1) for a Philanthropic Partner. These vacant positions offer an opportunity for diverse stakeholders to contribute their perspectives and expertise to shape the ECRC's initiatives.
- b. Interested parties are encouraged to submit their applications before the interest form closes on February 20th, 2024. Members will be notified of the selection outcomes on February 26th, 2024.
- c. English - <https://forms.gle/Mr63E2ZdPJME9SoU7>
- d. Spanish - <https://forms.gle/hPDCKaG57Gtfq6hF7>

3. New Arrivals Update:

- a. **Jesus Del Toro, Project Manager of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Right's**, shared updates on support for new arrivals in Illinois, emphasizing the need for additional funding for welcoming centers and municipalities, as well as essential items like cots and blankets in shelters. He stressed the importance of a national response, with the Federal government playing a key role, and mentioned ongoing advocacy efforts with other cities.
- b. He further discussed the city's response to the influx of migrants, the state's efforts to fast-track resettlement through obtaining state work permits, and the challenges of achieving self-sufficiency with limited federal funding.
 - i. Please review the Jan 30 – New Arrivals Briefing deck attached.

4. Chicago Early Learning:

- a. Newcomers Enrollment Process and Support and Services
 - i. **Leslie McKinily, Chief Officer of Early Childhood at CPS**, reviewed the school-based enrollment process for new arrivals.
 - ii. **Dr. Carrie Comer-Yates, Senior Manager of Instructional Quality – ODLSS at CPS**, presented a flow chart detailing the process for supporting children with potential disabilities in Chicago. She explained that if a child is identified as potentially disabled, they can be referred to a child find site, followed by a screening and potential evaluation by the assessment team. If they are found eligible, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed. She also



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mentioned that children who do not require a full IEP can receive speech services.

- iii. **Sharay Johnson, Manager of Family Support Programs from DFSS**, discussed the recruitment and enrollment process for children in shelters. Sharay emphasized the importance of keeping siblings together and collaborating with CPS to support all children, including school-age children. She concluded by inviting any entity interested in supporting enrollment to contact her for a thorough discussion and review.
 1. Please review the ECRC Jan 30 deck – Newcomer Enrollment, Support and Services.

5. Illinois Department of Children & Family Services:

- a. **Shontée Blankenship & Edie Washington from Illinois Department of Children & Family Services** discussed the enrollment requirements for homeless and displaced children and families that are in need of childcare services and licensed daycare facilities.
- b. The Department aims to address enrollment requirements for homeless and displaced children and families seeking childcare services. Through collaboration with state agencies, stakeholders, and early childhood organizations, they're reviewing licensing rules to interpret enrollments better, striving to ensure access to childcare services in licensed facilities for these families in need.
- c. For more information, please visit <https://dcfs.illinois.gov/>

6. Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship (CELWS):

- a. **Sandy De Leon, Executive Director of CELWS**, discussed the ongoing trends in their applicant pool, noting that 61% of applicants reported being employed in Chicago's early learning sector, with 77 reporting employment in a community-based organization and 23 in a Chicago Public Schools.
- b. Sandy reviewed the previous academic year's achievements, including serving nearly 600 people, graduating 166, and facilitating the transfer of 28 people to bachelor's degree programs. Additionally, it was highlighted the achievement of licenses by 56 individuals.
- c. The CELWS is currently open, please share with your networks.
 - i. [Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship Website](#)
 - ii. Have questions about the scholarship? Email scholarships@chilearn.org for more information.

7. Chicago Department of Public Health:

- a. **Madeline Shea, Assistant Commissioner from the Chicago Department of Public Health**, presented updates on the Family Connect Chicago program and the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes program. She shared that since the launch of the Family Connect Chicago program in March 2020, over 6,000 home visits have been conducted in partnership with several hospitals.



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- b. For the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes program, Madeline announced an expansion due to a large investment from the City Council as part of the Chicago recovery plan. This will increase eligibility for households and aim to repair at least 203 homes this year.

8. Mathematica:

- a. **Jill Spielfogel** presented a free opportunity to support early childhood center-based educators in the Chicagoland area. The Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC) to Support Social and Emotional Learning in Early Education and Head Start is a unique collaborative focused on supporting center-based early education programs with improving practices, policies, and environments to promote children's social and emotional learning (SEL) and racial equity.
- b. If you have questions about the BSC to Support Social and Emotional Learning in Early Education and Head Start, please contact Jill Spielfogel at jspielfogel@mathematica-mpr.com.
- c. Please review the CCL2 deck attached.

9. Next ECRC Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

- a. Please note that there was a date correction made within the deck.
- b. To review previous meeting agendas and recordings, please visit the [ECRC website](#).

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