



## ECRC Advisory Committee March 19, 2024 Meeting Summary

### 1. Agenda

- a. ECRC Executive Committee Update
- b. Partner Updates
  - i. Legislative Updates
  - ii. Birth to Five Updates
  - iii. Chicago Department of Public Health
  - iv. Illinois Action for Children
- c. Upcoming Events

### 2. ECRC Executive Committee Updates:

- a. The committee members have participated in strategic planning workshops about the future focus of ECRC. The next step will be to review and share feedback on the draft strategic framework action plan for ECRC.
- b. A warm welcome to **Marquinta Thomas the VP Community Impact at Illinois Action for Children** and **Cindy La the Director of Children & Youth Services at the Chinese American Service League** as our newest members joining the ECRC Executive Committee.

### 3. Legislative Update:

- a. **Jonathan Doster, Legislative Director for Start Early**, discussed the proposed FY 25 budget by Governor Pritzker, focusing on increased funding for early childcare and education programs. He highlighted the requests made by the early childhood advocacy community for key funding streams and outlined the Governor's budget proposal, which includes a \$75 million increase for the early childhood block grant, \$160 million for the child care system, and smaller increases for home visiting programs.
  - i. Please review the **ECRC March 19th deck – Legislative Update** attached.

### 4. Birth to Five Updates:

- a. **Edna Navarro-Vidaurre, Regional Council Manager for Region 1-A (City of Chicago)**, shared updates about the third quarter, including an action plan based on the 2023 early childhood regional needs assessment. The team's focus areas include building upon the Chicago Early Learning centralized application system and advocating for comprehensive funding plans. They are also conducting a scan of mental and behavioral health services for children under the age of 8. A community meeting is planned for June to launch the action plan, focusing on access and advocating for sustainable funding.
  - i. Please review the **ECRC March 19th deck – Birth to Five Illinois** attached.



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### 5. Chicago Department of Public Health:

- a. **Jennifer Cooper and Alexandra Strong from Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)** presented Understanding Measles for Schools on the disease, its transmission, and prevention. The discussion aimed to provide clarity to early childhood stakeholders and providers on how to prevent measles in their centers. Jennifer outlined various options for families to access the vaccine, including healthcare providers and federally qualified health centers.
  - i. Please review the **School Measles PP 3.20.24** attached.
- b. To contact CDPH School Team please email [SchoolsCD@cityofchicago.org](mailto:SchoolsCD@cityofchicago.org) or call (312) 746-6015. For more information, please visit [Measles in Schools - chicagohan.org](https://www.chicagohan.org/measles-in-schools)

### 6. Illinois Action for Children:

- a. **Marcia Stoll, Assistant Director of Research for Illinois Action for Children**, discussed the findings of a project on child care for children with disabilities. The survey revealed that families faced challenges in finding and keeping childcare due to providers' unwillingness or inability to accommodate children with disabilities, lack of training and staff, and difficulty in finding providers who could meet specific needs. Despite these challenges, many parents reported mostly positive experiences with providers.
  - i. Please review the **ECRC March 19th deck – Research on Child Care for Children with Disabilities** attached.

### 7. Upcoming Events

- a. Chicago Early Learning: Conversations with the Chief on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - [Register Here](#).
- b. Early Childhood Advocacy Day on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- c. City-wide Cross Training: Let's Work Together! On Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.
  - i. Please use the Let's Work Together [registration link](#).

### 8. Next ECRC Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

- a. 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](mailto:ECRC@cityofchicago.org). Thank you all for your active participation.