



**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**July 8, 2020**

**Members Present:** Holly Jin, Francesca Pilati, Colleen Larkin, Leah Pouw, Liza Sullivan, Debbie Wiedeman, Stephen Vick, Sara Worch, El Cabral Lee (IWSE), Sana Bhojani

**Icebreaker:** *Have you ever stepped on a banana peel?*

**Check-in:** *What's the crappy/happy this week?*

- Francesca Pilati (School District)- Planning for schools to reopen in the fall and the challenges of making sure students and staff are safe.
- Colleen Larkin (School District)- Initial task force meeting for return to school. Excited to return in the fall but a lot of difficulties and struggles to create an equitable plan for students. District 72 is planning for two sessions to accommodate capacity and people who are not comfortable attending in person.
- Debbie Wiedeman (Government)- Changes to the calendar and evaluating everything the library is doing. Some things are well received and the library will continue to do those things.
- Liza Sullivan (School District)-Community Schools team received a \$2,000,000 grant over five years to continue doing their community schools work and continue to support families with hot spots and meals. They are looking forward to expanding their work; however, there is still uncertainty about what the school year will look like and the needs of the families.
- Stephen Vick (Home Visiting)- IWSE is doing a lot of training right now including trauma and safety precautions. So many things that need to be taken into consideration when planning, such as communication with parents, drop-off, pick-up, and PPE. There has been anxiety with the opening.
- Sara Worch (EI)- EI is still figuring things out regarding in-person services. Tele-health has been approved but it has been a challenge for some families. Some families are just doing call-in support which is more of a check-in. There are a lot of challenges in servicing children in different locations and medically fragile children. Nothing has been confirmed with in-person therapy.
- Sana Bhojani (Private Child Care)- The "not so great" is how to stay open. There are a lot of expenses and challenges for families. The happy is that Mosaic is able to stay open.
- Holly Jin (Government)- The library is learning how to do things online. Materials can be shared out but cannot be returned. The building will not yet open. The library is also under construction.

## 1. Leah's updates-

- Providing consultation to coordinate the work of LAN 41 and ECA from operations and communications perspective.
- Leah has talked to a few members of the Steering Committee and is hoping to talk to additional members.
- Leah's Happy: End of the fiscal year! She has been working with a group to do monitoring of the PI program. Right now monitoring is suspended for home visits, EI, and center-based. Some of the requirements as centers reopen will be challenging, such as having cribs 6 feet apart.
- Big picture idea: To create a system that allows multiple organizations to know when they are serving the same families so they can work together to help the family secure resources.
- Ideas for the short-term:
  - i. Coordinated referral system- get students and families the support they need in a more systematic way
  - ii. At the next whole member meeting, create a list of places that serve priority populations- writing down who we know and who we do not know. How are families referred and how are we following-up?
  - iii. Way to increase communication between sectors about what the greatest needs are and what good things are happening in each sector.
- Thoughts:
  - i. There are a lot of crises right now that make it challenging to think about an agenda for putting a referral system in place. There are concerns about how to open and stay open.
  - ii. How do we prevent families from falling through the cracks when we are in crisis? A system would make it easier for providers because compliance and need still go on.

## 2. Opportunity for ECA to connect to EECC (El Cabral Lee)

- Last year the ECA was a partner in the Lifting Up Early Childhood series- Evanston Community Foundation and other groups across Skokie, Evanston, Niles worked to elevate the conversation about Early Childhood.
- El Cabral Lee Director of Development and Communications with the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston joined the meeting to discuss an opportunity to continue the partnership and work from Lifting UP.
- There is an opportunity to partner and plan a national event focused on the state of early childhood based on the current climate addressing issues of race, social justice, and inequity in early childhood education.
- The guest speaker would be Jane Elliott, an educator for 50 years who created the blue eye and brown eye test. She is an active anti-racism activist who understands the issues early childhood educators' experience.

- The event will be held either October 7 or 14. The event would provide an opportunity to bring communities together and will also be a way for non-profits to fundraise through virtual tickets and donations
  - Erikson Institute is interested in being involved.
  - Planning meeting on July 22- email El Cabral Lee if interested in helping to plan the committee.
  - Partner organizations needed to help with fundraising and spreading the word of the event.
  - Liza Sullivan, Stephen Vick, Colleen Larkin, and Francesca Pilati are interested in joining the planning committee.
3. Advocacy Letters to Government Officials (Joanna/Steve)
- [Child Care Capacity letter](#) to Governor's Office and DCFS
  - Would the community-based sector endorse this letter to send to the governor?
  - Letter was written by Joanna Varda, SCC
  - Who has the authority to make the decision to endorse the letter for the ECA?
  - Concerns about asking for full capacity for money purposes when centers may not be able to reach full capacity and it may not be safe to do so.
  - Recommended that centers can sign it on their own but not on behalf of the ECA.
4. Census 2020 (next meeting)
- What's being done at schools and child care centers
  - What can we do?
5. Directors and Home Providers roundtables (Arianna/Sana and Erin)
- Home Child Care Providers met on July 7 and will meet monthly
  - CBC Directors Meet-up on Monday, July 13 at 1:00pm
  - Question of dividers during naptime (guidelines vs. rules)
  - Question of best platform for communication (TBD)
  - [Child Care Restoration Grants](#) open July 20-24
6. [Skokie Community Foundation Grant](#) (next meeting)
- addresses needs of Skokie residents arisen from COVID-19 - application due September 9