

Early Learning Council Equity Implementation Committee Report

Committee Charge:

ELC Charge to Equity Implementation Committee

The Equity Implementation Committee is chartered to educate and provide leadership for the Early Learning Council (ELC) on the issues, challenges, successes and priorities related to implementing the [equity recommendations](#) for children and families furthest from opportunity, originally adopted by the Council on March 18, 2015. They are chartered to create an evidence-based, data driven plan relating to aligning early learning policy and practice with the equity lens, with a focus on culturally responsive practice, operating systems and data/resource allocation. The committee will assist the ELC in understanding equity issues from a data programmatic and social standpoint to support the ELC in:

1. Actualize issues of disparity in setting policy for the early learning system.
2. Recognize the value that diversity brings to the early learning environment and acknowledging the benefits of self-worth, empathy and success that it brings to all children.
3. Champion closure of development, opportunity and achievement gaps for young children and their families.

Committee Membership:

Eva Rippeteau, Chair; Cade Burnette; Carmen Ellis; Joyce Harris; Kelly Poe; Lennie Bjornsen; Lynne Saxton; Nicole Briggs; Patricia Alvarado; Rashelle Chase; Richard Hines Norwood; Sadie Feibel Holmes; Sue Miller

Report:

The Equity Implementation committee (EIC) met on May 16th to discuss: the Spark Tiers and Standards Draft; Rules Governing the Use of Vehicles in Child Care Settings; and future EIC meeting structure.

Key Issues Discussed & Uncovered:

Spark Tiers and Standards Draft: (Presenter: Meredith Russell)

Meredith Russell presented a follow up to the EIC on the Spark Tiers and Standards Draft for Ad Hoc Input dated 4/18/17. She discussed the:

- Introduction
- Proposed Spark Tier Overview
- Spark Entry Requirements
- Self Study Phase



The 3-star rating looks at five foundational aspects of quality:

- The environment
- Experiences (daily routines)
- Inclusiveness of children, families, and culture
- Positive interactions
- Educator Qualifications.

Meredith discussed how the Ad Hoc committee is attempting to remove a lot of the barriers in the education qualification section. The Ad Hoc Committee has a broad range of individuals which is allowing input from many valuable sources. The committee is not lowering the bar – rather they are defining and making it equitable.

Discussion on the 5-star standards. Looking at:

- Family engagement (opportunities for families to be engaged)
- Individualized curriculum (proposing specific types of curricula activity – assessments, ongoing child observations, child’s interests, and family input)
- Supporting relationships (provider is intentionally involving and engaging family).

Questions specifically asked to the Equity Implementation Committee:

1. Do the new standards inherently favor dominant culture providers?
2. Are providers that have a focus on equity being recognized for that commitment?

Meredith provided clarification on the word “recognized” in question 2: Is it helping them to achieve a star rating? Have we built the standard so that providers are really focusing on equity? Recognizing the good work that providers do will allow them to show their unique approach to the children they care for that can be reflective of their culture and values. Is it tight enough to show the quality but also loose enough for the individuality of the provider of a community to shine through.

After this presentation, the EIC requested a follow-up presentation from this Ad Hoc committee once they are further into this process.

Rules Governing Use of Vehicles in Child Care Settings: (Presenter: Dawn Woods)

Dawn Wood presented background on the rules governing use of vehicles in child care settings. Through the Division investigation of this topic, it found that there was a lot more involved than just the number of seats within passenger vans. Specifically, the chassis and wheel base difference versus just the number of seats in the van.

The ELD developed three options that they took to the CCEC for consideration:

- Option 1: Vehicles designed to carry more than ten passengers cannot be used to transport child care children, unless that vehicle is a school bus or a multi-function school activity bus.
- Option 2: Vehicles designed to carry more than ten passengers cannot be used to transport child care children, unless:
 - (a) the vehicle is a school bus or a multi-function school activity bus; or
 - (b) the vehicle is manufactured after 2010.



Option 3: Vehicles designed to carry more than ten passengers, and are not a school bus or a multi-function school activity bus, may be used under the following conditions

- (a) travel speed not to exceed 50 mph; and
- (b) have an annual safety inspection by a garage, dealership or auto repair shop. Proof of inspection must be on a form provided by the Office of Child Care or on a form provided by the inspector which contains the same information.

Dawn asked for EIC opinion on this topic. After some deliberation, EIC recommended that Option 3 would be the best option after factoring in all of the research and background information provided to them at this meeting.

EIC meeting structure recommendations: The EIC heard an update on current committee meeting structure. The committee reviewed a memo with three possible meeting options for future meeting structure. Option 1: All meetings are in-person with GoToMeeting option; Option 2: Meetings rotate between in person, with a call in option, and GoToMeetings; Option 3: All meetings are GoToMeetings. After deliberation, the committee decided to implement Option 2 beginning in September.

The Children's Institute Alexander Award: (Presenter: Sue Miller)

Sue recognized Donalda Dodson for receiving The Children's Institute Alexander Award. This award is given to recognize someone in a leadership position who is making a difference in the State for children and families. The EIC congratulated Donalda for her accomplishment.

Upcoming Key Decisions :

- Finalization of the Committee work plan.
- Project updates:
 - Infant-Toddler Self-Assessment (BB)
 - HFO accreditation process (BB)
- Review and provide feedback on:
 - Relief Nursery rules (CCEC)
 - Spark revisions (Spark Ad Hoc)
 - Professional development alignment with ELD & OHA
 - Child Care Rules: staff qualifications & training (CCEC)

Staffed by:

ELD - Lillian M. Green, ELD Equity Director

