

**Joint Board Meeting of the  
Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary  
School District No. 97 (District 97), the Board of  
Education of Oak Park and River Forest High School  
District No. 200 (District 200),  
the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park (VOP)  
and the Collaboration of Early Childhood Care and  
Education (CEC) Governing Board**

**Wednesday, November 20, 2013  
7 p.m.**

**Oak Park River Forest High School  
201 N. Scoville  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor East Library  
Oak Park, Illinois**

## **Agenda**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Review and approval of the Agenda
- D. Governing Board Report (Peter Barber, VOP)
  - Election of Officers of CEC Governing Board
  - Future Meeting Dates and Planned Topics for Discussion
  - Administrator Report
- E. Collaboration Annual Report (Carolyn Newberry Schwartz, CEC)  
Annual Report (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)  
Contract Implementation Update
- F. Call to the Board - issues, concerns, and topics for future agendas
- G. Public Comment
- H. Adjournment

If you require assistance to participate in this meeting please contact Gail Kalmerton at 708-434-3511 at least 48 hours before the scheduled activity.



Report to the Governing Board for the Intergovernmental Agreement  
Pertaining to Early Childhood Services  
November 20, 2013

This report focuses on the primary efforts to expand programs described in the Scope of Services under the Contract for Early Childhood Services (Contract) in the period beginning July 1, 2013.

Two initiatives were prioritized during the discussions leading up to the signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and the Contract on April 24, 2013.

1. Implementing a research-based and evidence-informed home visiting program for at-risk children ages birth to three and their parents, and a wide-reaching parent support program for all families with children ages birth to three; and
2. Developing a unified early childhood database to increase understanding of Oak Park and River Forest's youngest children, monitor program delivery and assess impact.

Significant progress has been made in both of these areas over the past four and one-half months.

#### Home Visiting and Parent Support Programs

In mid-October, the Collaboration awarded the contract for providing the Parents as Teachers program to families meeting risk criteria and parents support programs to all families living in Oak Park and River Forest to Parenthesis Family Center. For the past 33 years, Parenthesis Family Center has provided a host of services to families to help strengthen family bonds and promote the development of parents and young children by affirming the parent/child relationship, improving parenting skills, and alleviating family isolation. Parenthesis provides a host of services to the community from workshops, to peer group meeting sessions with clinical social worker support. Parenthesis currently provides assistance to teen parents and single parents through the Parents as Teachers home visiting program to support the educational growth of both the child and family. Parenthesis continues to maintain the original intent by continuing to host an open "drop in" program for community parents, allowing for age-appropriate educational activities for children while parents seek peer support and respite.

The Collaboration also entered into a contract with the Birth to Three Institute of the Ounce of Prevention Fund to provide technical assistance and quality assurance to Parenthesis Family Center as it works to quickly expand the Parents as Teachers program over the next two and one-half years. The Birth to Three Institute is the leading training and technical assistance

provider to early childhood programs, including home visiting and doula programs, funded by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), and Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Their expertise in training is based on the Ounce's experience developing, testing, and refining innovative programs. Their trainings and technical assistance help early childhood professionals use research results to most effectively serve low-income children and their families.

After consulting with the Governor's Office for Early Childhood Development and the Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Child and Adolescent Health, the Collaboration identified two research-based and evidence-informed home visiting programs as best meeting the needs of the Oak Park and River Forest families. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on June 26, specifying either Healthy Families America or Parents as Teachers as the home visiting program to be implemented, and seeking innovative approaches for extensive outreach to, and programming for, all of Oak Park and River Forest families. The Collaboration secured significant consultative support from the Office of Early Childhood Development in the preparation of the RFP and the scoring framework. The RFP was also shaped through the guidance received from members of the Collaboration's Parent Information and Support Committee which is comprised of parents with young children, child development specialists, social workers, and early childhood educators. The RFP was sent to 10 organizations with a history of providing high-quality home visiting programs and also distributed through contacts at the Illinois Early Learning Council.

An ad-hoc administrative committee, comprised of people with significant expertise in home visiting and parent support and understanding of the Oak Park and River Forest communities and the Contract, reviewed the proposals. The closing date for the proposals was August 14. Four proposals were received. The review team scored the proposals and then interviewed each applicant agency because all of the proposals were very strong. Interviews were held on September 9. After intensive analysis and discussion, the review team identified the Ounce of Prevention Fund and Parenthesis Family Center as the preferred providers.

The staff in the Office of Early Childhood are greatly impressed with the level of commitment to home visiting by the Oak Park jurisdictions and have offered to make available to our programs supports being provided to agencies who are part of the federal Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) programs in Illinois. These supports include training and use of the database developed for these programs at no cost to the Collaboration. It's important to note that the investment through the Contract has leveraged resources into the Oak Park and River Forest communities that we were unable to access over the past few years. The contracts for services are attached to this report. Members of the review team are listed below.

### Home Visiting and Parent Support Proposal Review Team

Susan Breitenstein  
Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Faculty Scholar  
Assistant Professor  
Rush University College of Nursing  
Board Member, Collaboration for Early Childhood

Eric Gershenson  
Founders Board Member  
Collaboration for Early Childhood

Paul Goyette  
Chair, Parent Information and Support Committee  
Collaboration for Early Childhood

Teresa Kelly  
Project Director  
Strong Foundations Partnership  
Office of Early Childhood  
Office of the Governor Development

Andrea Palmer  
Program Services Administrator  
Bureau of Child and Adolescent Health  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
Division of Family and Community Services

Carolyn Newberry Schwartz  
Executive Director  
Collaboration for Early Childhood

#### Unified Early Childhood Database

The Collaboration entered into a contract with Chapin Hall, a leading research and policy center affiliated with the University of Chicago and with a mission of improving the well-being of children and youth, families, and their communities. The work of Chapin Hall focuses on the child-services-systems nexus needed to effectively monitor and assess the progress of the Collaboration in implementing the integrated early childhood system and the impact on children living in Oak Park and River Forest. Chapin Hall's work encompasses "a distinctive marriage of the most rigorous academic research with innovative partnerships with the public systems, institutions, organizations, and programs that are in a position to best deploy that research."

A Request for Information (RFI) for the Unified Early Childhood Database was issued on July 1, 2013. The Collaboration secured expert guidance in crafting the RFI and reviewing it from a committee comprised of community residents with deep knowledge in database development, research, and technology systems. The RFI was sent to 58 research organizations, universities, and software companies across the country. The closing date for submitting a response to the RFI was August 16; 10 organizations submitted a response.

The review team scored the proposals and then determined to interview three applicants. Interviews were held on September 12. After discussion, the review team identified a preferred vendor and entered into a contract with Chapin Hall. The contract with Chapin Hall is included with this report.

## Unified Early Childhood Database Review Team

Laura Crawford  
Nonprofit Technology Specialist

Jeff Hanneman  
Director of Information Technology  
Illinois Action for Children

Debbie McCann  
Partner, W4Sight, LLC  
Specialist, Software Selection and  
Implementation

Denis Roarty  
Institutional Researcher  
College of Education  
University of Illinois – Chicago

Rupa Datta  
Vice President and Senior Fellow  
Center for Excellence in Survey Research  
National Opinion Research Center

Marie Masterson  
Assist. Professor of Early Childhood Ed.  
Dominican University

Carolyn Newberry Schwartz  
Executive Director  
Collaboration for Early Childhood

Bob Spatz  
Director of Technology – Subscriber Product  
Products  
CRSP | Center for Research  
In Security Prices  
University of Chicago  
Booth School of Business

### Developmental Screening

The Collaboration Board approved the posting of a job opening in September 2013 for the Developmental Screening Network Coordinator. The position was developed in consultation with pediatricians, child development specialists with experience in Early Intervention, health agency executives, parents and higher education faculty in early childhood. This position is designed to coordinate developmental screening efforts across the community at primary health care provider sites and offices, child care and preschool sites, and the home visiting program. Fifty-nine people responded to the announcement and 15 have been identified for further review. The position will be filled in late November early December. The position job description is included with this report.

The Director of Early Childhood Initiatives of the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics' (ICAAP) has committed to supporting the Collaboration's efforts around developmental screening and referrals for assessment and services which should help to strengthen the Collaboration's connection to primary medical care providers. The Collaboration's work in this area aligns closely with:

1. ICAAP's Healthy Beginnings II project to promote strong communications between pediatric clinicians and developmental service providers including Early Intervention to ensure children are screened and referred for assessments and services developmental; 2. The work of ICAAP to foster strong connections between pediatric clinicians and home visiting providers; and 3. ICAAP's efforts to ensure that pediatric clinicians work with children and families who experience trauma to access to quality treatment and resources to prevent adverse developmental outcomes for children.

#### Additional Activity

- A Professional Development Forum was held at Beye Elementary School on September 23 showcasing the training and learning of staff at child care centers and child care family homes around supporting children's social-emotional growth. Seven family child care providers have been added to the training cohort this year and the Collaboration has embarked on the second year of implementation of training and coaching staff on practices that promote children's social emotional development.
- Vision and hearing screening program has been expanded to include children three to five years old in child care centers and preschools in River Forest.
- The Collaboration's professional development coordinator participates in the Illinois Professional Development Advisory Council of the Illinois Department of Human Services, co-chairs the Family Child Care Providers Credential Development Committee for the State of Illinois, and is involved with the state's Credential Advisory Committee for child care and preschool workers.
- The executive director is participating in the Consortium for Community Systems development led by Illinois Action for Children as part of the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant. This group will drive a strategic planning process designed to result in a vision and framework for what it means to be a local early childhood system in Illinois. A team from the Build Initiative is facilitating the strategic planning process. She participates in Erikson Institute's initiative, Envisioning Change: Improving Education and Developmental Outcomes of Young African American Students in Illinois, participates in the Systems Integration and Alignment Committee of the Early Learning Council, and has held a seat on the Early Learning Council since January 2004.
- The Collaboration participated in a panel on early childhood partnerships at the Mayor's Innovation Project Summer Meeting in August 2013.
- The Collaboration presented its model and highlighted specific initiatives at the Innovation Zone Conference sponsored by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Education in Sept. 2013. The Collaboration also offered its assistance to Innovation Zones in their planning and implementation phases of work over the next three years.

Collaboration for Early Childhood  
Annual Report to the Governing Board  
2012-2013

Fiscal year 2012-2013 was a pivotal year for early childhood in Oak Park, with two notable milestones. In November the Collaboration hosted a widely attended lecture by Nobel Laureate James Heckman, who laid out the case for public investment in our youngest children. And in April the Collaboration entered into a contract with District 97, District 200 and the Village of Oak Park to create the infrastructure to provide every child birth to age five and family with high quality services to support their developmental needs.

The Collaboration gained recognition over the past year as an innovative model for integrating and expanding early childhood services. The executive director consulted with three other municipalities and presented at a state-wide conference on building collaborations to improve early childhood. The executive director and a board member presented a workshop on building collaborative systems at the Smart Start Conference in North Carolina in April 2013. Two Collaboration Board members worked as TA consultants to Illinois Action for Children's Early Childhood Action Partnership project. The Collaboration's executive director participated on a panel at "Early Childhood Education for the Future: The Creative Use of Public-Private Partnerships to Provide Cost-effective, High Quality School Readiness Programs" hosted by the Child Law and Education Institute of Loyola University Chicago School of Law on March 15, 2013.

The Collaboration's strategic plan served as the organizing framework for its work during 2012-2013. More than 60 agencies and family child care providers were involved with the Collaboration. The four primary strategies pursued by the Collaboration included the advancement of Professional Development, Parent Information and Support, Developmental Screening and High Quality Public Preschool Programs. The following are highlights from the past year.

**Professional Development:**

Key accomplishments:

- Became an Authorized Entity of the Illinois Gateways to Opportunity enabling our professional development trainings to be Illinois Registry approved in October 2012 (a member of the first group of agencies in the state to become entitled).
- Secured a grant from the Community Foundation of Oak Park and River Forest to develop and implement training at nine child care/preschool sites and four family child care homes on social-emotional development. The training series also included purchasing and providing support for administration of a developmental screen in the social-emotional domains for the children enrolled in the nine centers — the Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional. Through this effort:
  - ü 208 hours of registry-approved trainings have been awarded to staff at nine centers (including Park District preschools) and four family child care providers. Training was focused on knowledge and implementation of Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional assessment tool. Along with the training, these programs are

- receiving 430 hours of mentoring to develop a system to use the tool in their programs. The centers and family child care providers also received coaching in the Illinois Quality Rating System to achieve a level score as an indicator of quality. The Collaboration anticipates that all participants will submit applications for either a new rating or a first time score by December 2013.
- ü 602 hours of registry-approved training were awarded to staff at nine centers and four family child care providers around social emotional development using Creative Curriculum, which is also supported with the mentoring hours.
- ü 92 early childhood staff from 12 center-based programs and 16 family child care provider homes were awarded 184 registry approved hours for the training received through the workshop designed to provide them with information and strategies to help parents utilize the “Watch and Help Me Grow” guidebook including the Park District preschools.

· **Symposium**

The 2013 Symposium, *Community: Building Relationships in Early Childhood* was held February 23, 2013, at Percy Julian Middle School, with nearly 400 early childhood educators, care providers and community members participating. Through funding support from the Oak Park Public Library, Community Foundation of Oak Park River Forest, Oak Park Elementary Schools District 97, and District 97 PTOs, and by leveraging tremendous volunteer resources in the community, receipt of in-kind contributions of space, janitorial and technical support from District 97, and breakfast fare from Whole Foods, the Collaboration was able to offer a high-quality learning and networking opportunity at low cost to this broad-based audience. The Symposium featured 19 different workshops and a keynote address by Dr. Marie Masterson. Dr. Masterson is on the faculty of Dominican University in River Forest. Child care workers, preschool teachers and classroom aides received up to four and a half hours of in-service credits toward the 15-hour professional development requirement.

- During the 2012 school year, through the Collaboration’s Professional Development Advising:
  - ü Spring 2012, 8 individuals obtained 33 college credit hours
  - ü Summer 2012, 4 individuals obtained 14 college credit hours
  - ü Fall 2012, 11 individuals obtained 48 college credit hours
- Continued to offer the Directors Roundtable for [how many?] preschool and child care directors. The Roundtable provides a forum for professional development for directors, shared problem solving, and information exchange. Provided a roundtable for family child care providers focused on meeting their professional growth needs. Twenty-five family child care providers regularly participate in this activity.

**Developmental Screening and Parent Support:**

- Conducted hearing and vision screenings for more than 1,100 children (including all children enrolled in Park District preschool programs) and achieved an 86% completion rate for children referred for additional assessments and services.
- Produced and distributed a guidebook for parents on early childhood development titled “Watch and Help Me Grow: Developmental Milestones Birth to Five,” Created a web page for parents to access the information and learn of other resources.

- Secured support of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood (OECD) in the development of a model-fidelity home visiting program and parent support program Request for Proposal. OECD has provided the Collaboration and its contractor with its database for program monitoring and service delivery.
- Developed and hosted a workshop for parents on developmental milestones and accessing early intervention and early childhood support services.
- Hosted two Physicians Breakfast meetings, each attended by 35 family practice physicians and pediatricians. The topics included the use of motivational interviewing to address childhood obesity and sleep issues in early childhood.

### **Public Preschool Coordination**

- Identified and enrolled 21 children from hard to reach families in publicly funded preschool programs for at-risk children for the academic year 2013-2014.
- Worked with District 97 to help ensure accurate collection of information about children's early learning experiences at kindergarten registration as part of the effort to establish baseline data about children's kindergarten readiness.
- Continued to develop and improve a database that supports the work of the publicly funded preschools. Began to use the database to guide program improvements.
- Provided ongoing technical support for curriculum development and improvement at each public preschool site and professional development.
- Promoted, supported and monitored inter-rater reliability training for the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system.