Every Child Ready Chicago  
October 18th 2022, 10-11am

- Introductions
  - Candace Moore is the new Director of Early Learning at the Mayor’s Office (began in July)
  - Edna Navarro Vidauerre is the Birth to Five Region Council Manager for Region 1-A (Chicago)

- ECRC began in 2019 and has endured through the COVID-19 crisis, produced a landscape and strategy document, and made collaborative efforts to align with state initiatives and leadership transitions
  - April of this year marked the launch of the joined ECRC/Birth to Five initiative to maximize impact on children and families

- ECRC/Birth to Five meetings are always open to the public, due to the Open Meetings Act
- Review of ECRC vision statement, created by the collective ECRC and wish to reaffirm
- Review of proposed purpose, role, and goal of ECRC/Birth to Five collective
- Where ECRC will be going next:
  - Meeting cadence: monthly executive committee and strategic planning committee meetings; quarterly advisory council meetings
  - Finalize governance structure
  - Create a one-year action agenda that sets priorities to support the field
  - Finalize selection for Family and Action Councils in collab with Birth to Five

- ECRC has been identified as more of an advisory council than working group
- Governance structure intended to be more collaborative instead of hierarchical
- CECIDS (Christina Krasov)
  - Chicago Early Childhood Integrated Data System
  - Cloud based platform, allows for more real time and interactive data sharing and analysis
  - Relevant/transparent data helps justify additional resources to unmet needs
  - Three pronged infrastructure:
    - Public/Private governance
    - Modern technology
    - Connecting data to people and communities
  - Have just released the Alpha version that looks at the entire city
  - Governance structure includes data governors at CPS and DFSS

- Employer Council of Early Childhood: Workforce Partnership
  - Three key strategies of initiative:
    - Create pathways for incumbent workforce to increase degree attainment
    - Advocate for increased compensation
Both of these previous strategies work to create a pipeline of increasing people in the workforce

- Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship (Sandy De Leon)
  - Aims to support Chicagoans and current early learning workforce to earn credential, degree, licensure, or endorsement to work in Chicago Early Learning programs (birth to pre-k)
  - Each scholar paired with an advisor (who also works in ECE)
  - “Last dollar scholarship”, pays for what other scholarships do not cover
  - Application will open again in January 2023, there is an open period once per year
    - Can be found on Chicago Early Learning website under “scholarship”
  - Recipients must work in a Chicago Early Learning classroom/environment for three years after degree completion
  - Variety of different degrees and pathways this scholarship can support, in response to comprehensiveness of ECE field
  - 2021-22 academic year saw 192 students complete their degree/pathway
    - Biggest year so far!
      - Each degree/certificate/etc has an equivalency to gateways credential levels
      - 95% of CELWS scholars identify as non-white/34 is the most common age
      - Working on mapping data: across 77 community areas, work commitment, and employment results

- Birth to Five is focus on enrollment for the immediate future
  - Selecting members for their council and recruiting for family council
  - Data and lived experiences will be the foundation of work going forward

- Next steps:
  - Next meeting will be in January
  - Provide information for people to sign up for committees (can sign up for more than one)
  - Will provide a space for feedback and submit questions
  - Will be updating the ECRC website
  - Updating distribution list