EC-REACH

Early Childhood Research Alliance

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Planning Committee Meeting 6

June 2, 2022

DROP IN THE CHAT:
What is your most used emoji?

Special Note from Maia and Family

Thank you all so much for your dedication and hard work nurturing the EC-REACH "baby" while I was focused on this baby instead! You have already created something amazing, and I can't wait to see it continue come to life over the next months and years.

Thanks!!
Maia

Agenda

9:00 - 9:10 AM	**10 min**	Welcome & Review
9:10 – 10:00 AM	**50 min**	Review Home Institution Voting
10:00 – 10:20 AM	**20 min**	Home Institution Next Steps
10:20 – 10:25 AM	**5 min**	Celebrating Progress
10:25 - 10:35 AM	**10 min**	Looking Forward

Working Norms

Step up / Step back

Listen to learn

Set aside individual agendas

Stay focused

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Meeting 6: Focus

At the conclusion of our time together, the EC-REACH planning team will:

1. Narrow the Home Institution

2. Celebrate our progress! 🎉 👏 🍻

3. Understand next steps on the road to launch

EC-REACH unites diverse partners to co-construct and implement an action-oriented research agenda that promotes equitable solutions for early childhood policy and practice in Chicago.

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Home Institution Selection Process

Determining the path forward to securing a home institution

1. Identify list of all potential institutions
2. Open Letter of Inquiry process
3. Planning Committee members score LOIs on a rubric

    > *Have clarifying conversations w/ institutions as needed*

4. Planning Committee agrees on a best-fit partner

IF multiple options are identified, subcommittee continues process:

1. Invite smaller # to complete an RFP

    > *Have clarifying conversations w/ institutions as needed*

2. Working group scores RFPs with shared rubric and determines best-fit institution

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Home Institution Scoring Criteria

	Criteria	Explanation
%	*Flexible support*	Understands and has the capacity to fully realize the power of a citywide early childhood research alliance, including its need for self-governance, flexibility, transparency, and participatory ways of working.
%	*Cross-sector representation*	Maintains a broad focus to support work across all sectors of the early childhood system in Chicago, including early care, education, home visiting, and maternal & child health
%	*Operations Backbone*	Provides infrastructure to support functions such as: contracting, compliance, data sharing and use agreements, institutional review board approvals, office and meeting space, payroll, benefits, IT support, partnerships/MOUs.
%	*Outreach engine*	Shares support for fundraising and bolsters connections to funders; capacity and expertise to uplift communication/dissemination.
%	*Mission alignment*	Leadership brings energy, enthusiasm and an entrepreneurial spirit to the undertaking; and has demonstrated a focus on equity and inclusion.
%	*Public trust*	A stable and durable institution that has earned the trust of Chicago's early childhood researchers, policymakers, practitioners, communities, and families and is well-positioned to act as a hub and convener across these groups.
%	*Broad reach*	Maintains and facilitates strong connections to state and national work.
%	*Research Expertise & Capacity*	Is experienced in and committed to both conducting rigorous and actionable early childhood research and supporting partners to do so.

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Home Institution Rubric

Northwestern	CHAPIN HALL	UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO	Northern Illinois University
N=6	N=8	N=8	N=8
NORTHWESTERN	**CHAPIN HALL**	**UIC**	**NIU**
3.17	3.125	3.125	3.63
3.67	3.5	3.375	2.63
3.33	3	2.625	3.25
3.50	3	3	2.50
3.00	3.5	3.625	4.00
3.33	3.25	3.375	3.38
3.33	3	3.125	2.63
3.83	3.375	3.125	3.00
27.17	**25.75**	**25.375**	**25.00**
Diane	Cerathel	Cerathel	Cerathel
Terri			
Cerathel			

RECUSED FROM VOTING

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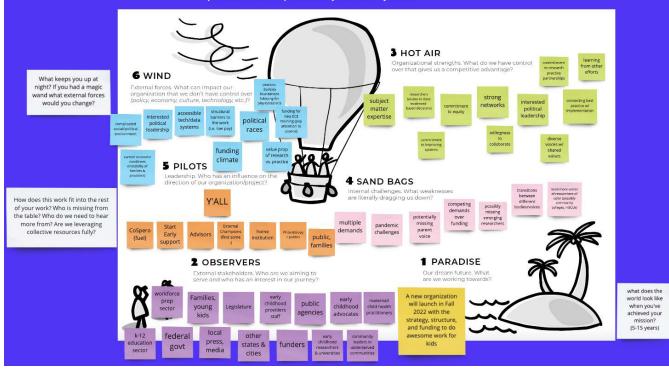**EC-REACH**

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The planning committee will prepare EC-REACH to launch in Fall 2022 with the **strategy**, **structure**, and **funding** to begin answering Chicago's most pressing questions around equitable early childhood systems.

EC-REACH unites diverse partners to co-construct and implement an action-oriented research agenda that promotes equitable solutions for early childhood policy and practice in Chicago.

Value Proposition

EC-REACH is the only *hyperlocal* research consortium focused on improving *early childhood* in *Chicago* by empowering stakeholders with equity-focused, accessible research findings.

Fundraising Strategy: Pitch Deck Topics

How We Got Here: Exploratory Research	
The Issue/Opportunity in Chicago	Fundraising Need + Ask
REACH Overview Mission & Value Prop; Note the difference between established institutions such as: • U Chicago Consortium (K-12 vs EC) • IWERC (statewide vs hyperlocal; in-house research versus hub research) • CECIDS (data storing/linkage vs research) • ARC • OCPE at Northwestern	Solidifying EC-REACH: • Home Institution Considerations • Sustainability Model • Staffing Considerations • Timeline to Launch
Our Approach: • Research Values + Agenda Process • RPP Work • Data access (CECIDS+…not a barrier) • Governance Model • Include steering committee member testimonials • External Engagement Strategy	Acknowledgement Note all stakeholders that have been part of the EC-REACH process – from funders to planning committee members

Governance

Once EC-REACH launches, what types of members/institutions should be engaged in different capacities:

Bodies	Role	Home Institution	Research Partners	Advocacy, Policy Orgs	ECE Practitioners	Parents/ Community	Gov't Agencies	Funders
Steering Committee	Provide strategic advising and support for the Director (fundraising, outreach, etc.)	X	X	X			X	
Alliance Partners	Practitioner voices to inform the work, conduct research, pool resources to support efforts, and drive the shared agenda forward	X	X	X	X		X	
Research Advisory Council	Diverse stakeholder voices to inform the research agenda and the sharing and application of findings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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External Outreach Directory

Organization/ Institution	Sector	Governing Body
Illinois Action for Children	Education	Research Advisory Council
Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)	Parent	Research Advisory Council
Carole Robinson Center for Learning	Education	Research Advisory Council
Gads Hill	Providers	Research Advisory Council
Metropolitan Family Services	Providers	Research Advisory Council
Chicago Childcare Society	Providers	Research Advisory Council
Child Care Advocates United	Providers	Research Advisory Council
Chicago Commons	Community	Research Advisory Council
Smarty Pants Daycare	Providers	Research Advisory Council
Chicago Public Schools	City	Steering Committee
Department of Family Support Services	City	Steering Committee
Chicago Mayor's Office	City	Steering Committee
Chicago Department of Public Health	City	Steering Committee
UIC	Researchers	Alliance Partner
City Colleges of Chicago	Researchers	Alliance Partner
Northwestern	Researchers	Alliance Partner
University of Chicago	Researchers	Alliance Partner
Northern Illinois University	Researchers	Alliance Partner
Erikson	Researchers	Alliance Partner
Start Early	Researchers	Alliance Partner
Chapin Hall	Researchers	Alliance Partner

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External Engagement Practices

EC-REACH staff should consider the following factors when recruiting Research Advisory Council members.

Factors	Considerations	Factors	Considerations
Representation	**Various indicators of diversity:** • Gender • Socioeconomic status • Race/Ethnicity • Community influence • Previous engagement • Native language • Neighborhood • Age + age of children • Differently abled/neuro-diverse	**Access**	**Options for securing diverse community voice:** • Nomination process where CBOs invite community members with specific perspectives/experiences on an issue • An open (simple) application process where community members can opt into an advisory council • Conduct targeted community outreach to find the voices needed (not just those readily available or already connected) • In lieu of an application process, host open advisory meetings that are shared broadly with the target community
Engagement	**Considerations for more equitable engagements include:** • Vary the time of day and consider hours for those without flexible work schedules • Provide transportation and childcare options • Host engagements at trusted community locations and/or consider virtual options • Provide community members with a stipend for their time • Ensure multi-language translation is available • Take time at each engagement to build relationships across potential silos • Include background information or training as necessary to bridge knowledge & experience gaps • Embed feedback loops to ensure that external engagement is meaningful	**Process**	**Considerations for what to include when seeking community insights :** • Before a research project – define what's on the table, share examples of past impact (why their feedback matters), describe a vision of desired impact (potential pros and cons of outcomes), identify bright spots, probe for current pain points • During a research project – touch base at regular intervals to share initial findings and anticipate any potential unintended consequences • After a research project – follow up specifically with those engaged to say thank you and share the outcome of the project including potential policy or practice implications; use straightforward, jargon-free language

Research Values & Criteria

EC-REACH supports research that is:

Value	Criteria
Rigorous	Research will meet high standards in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methodologies and will be committed to an open science practice
Responsive	Research will be solutions oriented and provide timely insights that are responsive to the pressing issues facing early childhood policy and practice
Equitable	Research will prioritize an equitable and asset-based approach that addresses the bias of power and privilege and engages community perspectives (especially those from historically disadvantaged and underrepresented groups) to shape the entire research process.
Collaborative	Research will be conceptualized, designed, and implemented through balanced and pre-determined collaboration among research partners, policy partners, practitioners, community leaders, and families.
Inclusive	Engage researchers, policymakers, and practitioners who approach their work from a variety of perspectives; we will be especially intentional about including researchers from historically disadvantaged and underrepresented groups as so to develop a more inclusive pipeline for the systemic work.
Contextualized	Research will be grounded in Chicago's social, economic, and political context.
Accessible	Communicate findings to diverse audiences (locally, state-wide, and nationally), using a variety of mediums, to encourage the use of research to inform meaningful change in policy and practice.

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Research Agenda Process

Process

- Field engagement:
  - Survey of agency staff
  - Survey of field/ partnership partners/ community
  - Facilitated meetings/ focus groups

- Policy leadership engagement
- Research expertise
- Steering committee sets the course broadly
- Home institution designs and conducts research, including in partnership where appropriate

Research approach

- Secondary data analysis
  - CCIDS as a starting point
- Primary dataLonger time frame
  - Quant/qual/ mixed

- Timelines
  - Literature review and expertise/consultation In termediary insights
  - Publishable research

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Research Agenda Topics for Consideration

- Workforce (including mental health and Covid impact)
- ECE quality and supports
- Covid -catch up
- Universal PreK implementation
- Infant-toddler care (demand, access, quality, workforce…)
- Special needs among early learners
- Dual language learners among early learners
- Parent and staff advocacy
- Early childhood policy & practice [focused on systems & structures]
- Universal pre-k impacts
- Childcare market post-pandemic
- Impact of segregation on quality ECE
- Integration of maternal and early childhood systems of care
- Prenatal and Home Based Home Visiting
- Access to evidence based service (i.e. for children with disabilities)
- Transitions into and through the EC system (reaching those most isolated)

Data Access & Sharing Pillars

EC-REACH should not collect or manage administrative / accountability data or data dashboards, but should instead:

Pillar	Explanation
Data Type	Support research studies that use administrative data, and studies that include primary data collection including qualitative data.
Data Access	Facilitate access to existing early childhood data, including administrative and accountability data that may include providing language and templates for partners to put data use agreements in place and/or establishing master data sharing agreements with one or more agencies/organizations. Subject to authorization by data owners.
Data Sharing	Facilitate access to a growing body of new early childhood data by facilitating the sharing of data, documentation, and prepared administrative data for analysis among current and past EC-REACH partners.
Data Linking	Facilitate the ability to link early childhood data from various sources, including via streamlined/expedited access to the CECIDS dataset. ○ CECIDS will provide integrated data, data modeling, and a secure research environment for EC-REACH. ○ EC-REACH projects will identify the need for improved and additional data to incorporate into CECIDS
Review and Approvals	Adhere to home institution IRB approval process and support partner IRB approval processes, including supporting approvals by data owners.

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Operating Budget

BUDGET CATEGORY	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	Total
Revenue				
EC-REACH Seed Funding	$800,000	$820,000	$880,000	$2,500,000
Other New Funding Sources (Individual, Foundation, Corporation, Grant, etc.)	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total Revenue	$800,000	$820,000	$880,000	$2,500,000
Expenses				
Salaries	$340,000	$400,000	$470,000	$1,210,000
Research	$350,000	$310,000	$295,000	$955,000
Institutional Overhead	$80,000	$81,000	$85,000	$246,000
Insurance	$0	$0	$0	$0
Marketing	$0	$0	$0	$0
Technology & Supplies	$0	$0	$0	$0
Travel	$0	$0	$0	$0
Professional Services	$0	$0	$0	$0
Conferences & Professional Development	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total Expenses	$770,000	$791,000	$850,000	$2,411,000

Institutional overhead may include: Rent, Utilities, Technology, Insurance, Marketing, Supplies, Operations Support (Comms, Grants, Legal, HR, Payroll)

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Working Group Details

Working Group	Outcomes/Timeline	Activities	Resources	Members (Lead*)
Fundraising	• $1.5M raised (60%) - July 2022 • $2.5M raised (100%) - August 2022	• Identify potential funders • Meet with identified potential funders • Make explicit funding asks & secure commitments	• Potential funders list • Pitch deck	John Easton* Dionne Dobbins
Home Institution	• Select home institution – June 2022 • Begin transfer to home institution – July 2022 • Complete transfer to home institution – August 2022	• Narrow down to final institution options • Meet with final institutions • Select home institution • Prepare for the legal requirements/ agreements – codify our influence & stipulations	• Final home institution candidates + rubrics • Legal support	Chris Chavez* Craig Maki *John Easton* *Dionne Dobbins* *Sam Melvin* *Jen Vidis?*
Staff/ External Engagement	• Conduct outreach to local agencies – June 2022 • Solidify steering committee (LOCs) - July 2022 • Support Executive Director hiring – August 2022	• Identify & confirm steering committee member (LOC) • Introduce community gatekeeper organizations to EC-REACH • Begin outreach to organizations that will likely participate in governing bodies • Solidify Executive Director job description • Launch Executive Director application process; possibly support hiring	• Executive Director job description (draft) • Outreach directory • Outreach language	Edgar Ramirez* Sam Melvin Cerathel Burgess- Burnett Jon Furr

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Transition Planning

Raise seed money

Secure home institution

Begin outreach

June 2022 – August 2022: Pathway to Launch

*Optional share out meeting in September

Fundraising Subcommittee

Home Institution Subcommittee

Staffing/ External Engagement Subcommittee