



P2P Advisory Council 9.24.24
DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance:

Aimee Julian, Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support
Jim Knauf, Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation Education and Research
David Kuriniec, Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services
Ang Wetmore, Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services
Anna Austin, Illinois Department of Human Services
Mariel Hamer-Sinclair, Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities
Nikki Ditchman, Illinois Institute of Technology
Rickielee Benecke, Life Center for Independent Living
Jessica Sipovic, Illinois Center for Transition and Work
Christina Muri Irland, Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation and Employment Research
Miranda Delanty, Bureau of Customer and Community Blind Services in Illinois
Casey Burke, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Meg Murphy, Illinois Institute of Technology
Eun-Jeong Lee (EJ), Illinois Institute of Technology
Barbara Anderson, Illinois Center for Independent Living, Carbondale
Robyn Lewis, Illinois Department of Human Services
Rob Lugge, Collinsville School District
Terri Shandrow, Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support
Brittany Boston, Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support
Kevin Irvine, Rush University Medical Center
LaMetric Lane, Illinois State Board of Education
Nina Tangman, Illinois Board of Higher Education

Shay Tarkowski, Life Center for Independent Living
Julie Orasco, Disabilities Resource Center, Joliet
Beth Bendtsen, Access Living
Sarah Sinner, Disabilities Resource Center, Joliet

Aimee Julian brought meeting to order and began welcome and introductions.

Overview of the Pathways to Partnership Project – The Illinois Pathways to Partnership project intends to provide its enrollees an opportunity for gainful employment, a better quality of life, increased economic independence, and a participating member of their community. Illinois Pathways to Partnerships is an innovative project aimed to improve transition outcomes, competitive integrated employment (CIE), and independent living outcomes for students with disabilities (age 10 to 24) across Illinois by seamlessly partnering Vocational Rehabilitation, Centers for Independent Living (CIL), and school districts.

Council members introduced themselves, including name, organization, and organization's purpose.

Project objectives:

- Develop a replicable and scalable innovative service delivery model that builds a seamless, cohesive, and effective partnership among SVRA, SEA, LEA, and CILs.
- Establish partnerships with at least eight geographically diverse LEAs,
- Develop an advisory committee with at least 10% of the committee being comprised of children and youth with disabilities and their support systems,
- Identify strategies for addressing challenges associated with access to appropriate postsecondary education, CIE, and IL outcomes,
- Conduct local resource mapping for each of the eight geographically diverse project sites,
- Develop modules related to financial literacy and economic independence,
- Provide integrated services that support positive transition outcomes such as PSE CIE, and IL,
- Support integration into the community through positive transition outcomes,
- Identify and coordinate wraparound services for any individual and organization served by IPPP,
- Develop evidence-based practices and share practices with other entities including LEAs,

- SVRAs, local rehabilitation providers, CILs, state and local workforce agencies, and regional
- And local employers.

Role of the Advisory Council

The Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Project aims to improve transition, competitive integrated employment (CIE), and independent living (IL) outcomes for students with disabilities age 10 – 24 across Illinois. To that end, the project will develop a replicable and scalable innovative service delivery model that builds a seamless, cohesive, and effective partnership among State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (SVRA), State Education Agency (SEA), local educational agency (LEA), centers for independent living (CILs) and university partners.

Charge

- The Illinois Pathways to Partnership Project will establish an advisory committee to guide and assist in accomplishing this goal. The advisory workgroup or steering committee will provide an input on the development, implementation, and operationalization of partner activities that contribute to the success of project participants.
- The advisory committee will include key personnel from the partners, with at least 10 percent of the committee members being children and youth with disabilities and their support systems.

Aimee Julian advised we are looking for more young people to be included on the committee. Asked participants to advise if they know anyone who could be involved.

David Kuriniec emphasized that this is a pilot year to examine how things can get better.

Participating School Update

David Kuriniec shared goal on participation.

The initial goal was to match each center for independent living with at least one district that had a mix of students from different age ranges from 10 to 24. We currently have six school districts participating. We did have a couple districts decide they did not want to move forward. We are in talks with a couple districts near Life CILs that may result in involvement. This leaves one more district in CILs area that we need to find.

Jim Knauf shared list of participating School Districts thus far:

1. Collinsville School District
2. Iroquis District #9
3. Chicago Public School District
4. Waukegan #60
5. Rockford Public School District #205
6. Valley View School District #365U

Two more districts are being recruited. Jim acknowledged the work of Christina Irland in recruitment efforts.

Question was presented on how Chicago schools were identified since there are so many.

Dr. LaMetric Lane addressed the Chicago question. The district selected must be in need.

Criteria considered:

- Compliance problems with indicator 13, which is a secondary transition indicator.
- Low in graduation and missing their target.
- Evidence based funding.

CPS decided to focus on the south side of Chicago, so all schools will be selected from that area.

David Kuriniec advised CILs still waiting for partnerships not to lose hope – efforts are ongoing to find new partnerships.

Question posed – Do schools have to get approval from District Administration to participate in research?

David Kuriniec said this a demonstration project but is not being considered research.

Dr. LaMetric Lane stated the districts do have to get permission from their school board, but not due to this being research.

David Kurinec stated a consent form that schools can use that will be available soon.

The pilot year for this program starts October 1, 2024. We are not required to be up and running in the classroom at that point. The goal is to start providing services by December 21, 2024. The plan on the curriculum side is to have this start with the new year.

Question posed - Are there going to be measures in place to ensure diversity in disabilities, ethnicity, and regional representation?

David Kurinec advised that diversity is being considered. The CILs selected were based on geographic diversity. The goal in selections made was to get a fair cross section of the state. The evaluation team is building equity into the plan from the very beginning.

Jim Knauf added that the selections made were chosen specifically because the main tenants of the grant is to capture the underserved population.

Commitment of Advisory Council – Quarterly Meetings

March, June, September, December 2025 – 2028 Half of the meetings will be in-person and half will be online.

The next meeting will be In Person on December 4, 2024 in Bloomington. (This may change based on availability of the committee.)

ICSPS will be putting out a Doodle poll to find a cadence that works for this committee.

Aimee Julian advised that any questions members have or topics that would like to be discussed can be sent to her at alafoll@ilstu.edu.