



P2P Advisory Council 3.18.25
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
Brittany Boston, Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support
Bryan Austin, Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation Education and Research
Anna Austin, Illinois Department of Human Services
Christina Muri Irland, Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation and Employment Research
Meg Murphy, Illinois Institute of Technology
Eun-Jeong Lee (EJ), Illinois Institute of Technology
Nikki Ditchman, Illinois Institute of Technology
Kristin Wagner, Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services
Susan Chaman, Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services
Ang Wetmore, Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services
Terri Shandrow, Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support
Kevin Irvine, Rush University Medical Center
Ron Rispoli, Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education
Ali Underwood, Collinsville Unit 10 School District
Sarah DRC Disability Resource Center in Joliet
Shay Tarkowski, Life Center for Independent Living
Meri Helbig, Life Center for Independent Living
Daniella Delgado, Chicago Public Schools
Casey Burke, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Dr. LaMetrice Lane, Illinois State Board of Education
Steven Johnson, Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

David Kurineic – Welcomed everyone to the meeting. Reviewed the project objectives advising the project is well underway in most of the school districts.

Aimee Julian guided attendees in introducing themselves.

All present introduced themselves.

PROJECT UPDATE AND REMINDERS

Jim Knauf gave project update and reminders.

Curriculum has been administered or will shortly be administered. Feedback has been good so far. There have been a few bumps in the road, but overall, the feedback is good. Working to better streamline and automate the program. This is expected as it is a pilot program. One hurdle is getting the completed forms back from individuals giving consent to participate in the program. A training is coming up for Pathways Staff on March 27, 2024 at Illinois State University. The evaluation team continues to work closely with the CILs on collaboration. Jim Knauf, Ang Wetmore, and David Kurineic will be speaking with DRS leadership in hopes of bettering informing DRS staff on the Pathways to Partnerships project, and the referral process.

Next in person meeting is June 24th in Ottawa, IL

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARGE DISCUSSION/CALENDAR MEETINGS FOR 2025

Aimee Julian reviewed the charges for the Advisory Council and the meeting cadence.

Charges

- 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.

Today we are learning about the evaluation framework.

Next Meetings:

June 24 - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Ottawa

August 5 - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - TBD

November 18 - 10:00 am -12:00 pm - Zoom

Calendar invites have been sent out.

We are still seeking parents and students to join the committee.

REVIEW OF THE EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Bryan Austin presented a review of the evaluation plan.

Described the Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Project (IPPP)

IPPP IIRER Evaluation team consists of:

Bryan Austin, Ph.D., Director of Evaluation

John Kosciulek, Ph.D., Professor

Chun-Lung Lee, Ph.D., Research-Evaluation Specialist/Biostatistician

Stuart Rumrill, Ph.D., Research-Evaluation Specialist

David George Strauser, Ph.D., Research-Evaluation Specialist

This team is working diligently to collect data.

The learning objectives today are to:

1. Describe Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Project (IPPP) Evaluation Framework and Rehabilitation Services Administration/Mathematica required Project Status Chart performance targets.
2. Articulate evaluation goals of the IPPP.
3. Discuss importance of the IPPP evaluation in relation to accessing key outcomes of the project.

IPPP: Population of interest

Student with disabilities Children (ages 10 to 13) & Youth (ages 14 to 24).

Project Goal: To increase the opportunity for program participants, organizations, and support systems to improve transition outcomes.

We anticipate 2,268 students with disabilities will use project services as Illinois Pathway to Partnerships Project participants.

The Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Project (IPPP) Evaluation Framework is a guide for *evaluating* and *measuring* the Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Project *Performance IN RELATION TO* to *key outcomes*.

- Increased participant Competitive Integrated Employment,
- Increased participant Post Secondary Education,
- Increased community integration,
- Enhanced participant Quality of Life, and
- Sustained collaborative, coordinated partnership model
- Produce data and findings for the IPPP Website
 - To be utilized by partners
 - IPPP participants and their families/guardians
 - Centers for Independent Living
 - Illinois DRS
 - Other partners/stakeholders

Process of IPPP Evaluation Framework Development

Aligned evaluation with:

- Project narrative and Illinois Pathway to Partnerships Conceptual Model
- RSA/Mathematica Project Status Chart requirements
- Transformed Logic model to visual diagram
- Used notable program evaluation sources
- Established constructs of interest

Bryan shared the IPPP Evaluation Logic Model. Slide deck from the meeting will be shared with attendees at the conclusion of the meeting.

Illinois Pathway to Partnerships Activities

- Build effective partnerships and provide integrated services
- Wrap-around services
- Pre-ETS/Transition services (e.g., curriculum, virtual career exploration tool)
- Advisory Committee
- Develop and apply strategies to address challenges with access to PSE, CIE, and IL

- Training and Technical Assistance
- Develop and share evidence-based practices, standards, and recommendations
- Interactive website

Evaluation goals for IPPP

The Illinois Pathway to Partnership Project evaluation goals are to provide evidence related to:

5 Primary Constructs of Focus

1. Quality of Life
2. Interagency Collaboration
3. Implementation
4. Knowledge Translation
5. Sustainability

Sub-constructs Distributed Across Primary Constructs

Quality of Life

- Independent Living
- Community Integration
- Well-Being

Interagency Collaboration

- Interaction and Relationship Quality
- Collaboration Policies and Practices
- Select Wrap-Around Services

Implementation

- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Vocation Rehabilitation Services

Knowledge Translation

- Dissemination and Utilization
- IPPP Toolkit
- Competitive Integrated Employment

Sustainability

- Collaborative, Coordinated Partnership Model
- Enhanced Participant Quality of Life
- Transition Outcomes (Post-Secondary Education and Competitive Integrated Employment)

Comprehensive evaluation questions exist on the website:

<https://iirer.ahs.illinois.edu/jppp/>

Project Contact per year goals

Children aged 10 – 13 target: 134

Youth aged 14-24 target: 1,000

- Include the raw number of youth ages 14 to 24 who received information about the project through any means (such as email, phone, or in-person.)
- In the explanation of progress, describe the contact approaches.

Children who used project services – per year

The number of children (10 – 13) who used project services target: 67

The number of children (10 – 13) from underserved communities who used project services target: 30

- Include the raw number of children ages 10 to 13 who used any project services (such as employment services, education services, or training services) from any project partner.
- The number of children who used any project services is a subset of the number of children contacted about the project.

This project goes by the Federal fiscal year: October 1 to September 30.

Youth who used project services – per year

The number of youth (14 – 24) who used project services target: 500

The number of youth (14 – 24) from underserved communities who used project services target: 225

- Include the raw number of youth ages 14 to 25 who used any project services (such as employment services, education services, or training services) from any project partner.

- The number of youth who used any project services is a subset of the number of youth contacted about the project.

List of Partners, Roles, and Activities per year

List your partners, their roles on the project, and the specific activities they completed.

Target: 18

- In the explanation of progress, address this measure.
- List each partner and describe both their roles on the project and the activities they conducted (such as meeting attendance, service provision, service coordination, and referrals of children and youth to other partners).

Youth Service Professionals who completed training – per year

The number of youth services professionals who completed professional training through the project by organization. Target: 22 (86 over 4-year period)

Of the youth services professionals who completed professional training, the number and proportion who reported the training is high in quality, relevant, and useful to their work.

Target: 17 (65 total over 4-year period)

Of the youth services professionals who completed the professional training, the number and proportion who implemented at least one component of the innovative model after completion of DIF project training. Target: 20 (77 over a 4-year period)

Children who completed a Career Assessment – per year

The number of children ages 10 to 13 who completed a career assessment. Target: 60 (241 total over a 4-year period)

- Include the raw number of children ages 10 to 13 who completed a career assessment or career exploration service.

Youth who obtained Competitive Integrated Employment or Enrolled in Postsecondary Education – per year

The number of youth ages 14 to 24 who obtained competitive integrated employment.

Target (Yr 2): 175

Target (Yr 3): 225

Target (Yr 4): 275

Target (Yr 5): 325

The number of youth ages 14 to 24 enrolled in postsecondary education.

Target (Yr 2): 60

Target (Yr 3): 70

Target (Yr 4): 80

Target (Yr 5): 90

Data Sources

- IPPP participants
- Parents, families, and guardians
- Illinois DRS
- Centers for Independent Living
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Employers
- Local Education Agencies/Schools
- Mathematica Baseline Survey

Data Collection Methods

- Evaluation Surveys/Questionnaires (pre-post and exit surveys)
- Interviews
- Document review
- Virtual career exploration tool/participant evaluation data
- Data collection forms and other agreed upon partner reporting strategies

Date Summary and Reporting

- Website dissemination
- Brief Reports
- Peer reviewed journal articles
- Professional presentations
- In-Person or virtual conference for partners
- Toolkit

IPPP Evaluation 5-Year Summary

Year 1 & 2 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)

Baseline Evaluation (Year 1 & 2)

Assessment of Project Pilot (Year 2)

Year 3 & 4 (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2027)

Formative Evaluation (Year 3)

Year 5 (October 1, 2027 – September 30, 2028)

Summative Evaluation (Year 5)

- Quality of Life
- Interagency Collaboration
- Implementation
- Knowledge Translation
- Sustainability

Where IPPP Evaluation Findings are Located

Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Project Website: [Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Project – Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation and Employment Research](#)

DISCUSSION: HOW THE DATA WILL IMPACT IMPLEMENTATION?

In wrapping up, Bryan shared a diagram how data will impact implementation.

- Effective evaluation is essential.
- The IPPP Evaluation Framework is the roadmap for our evaluation

Increased participant Competitive Integrated Employment

Increased participant Post Secondary Education

Increased community integration

Enhanced participant Quality of Life

Sustained collaborative, coordinated partnership model are **key outcomes**.

Bryan emphasized the importance of collaboration to make the program successful. Data will be collected from DRS, CIL's, and LEAs. Data will be used to inform accountability and improve the program.

Group discussion led to agreement it would be beneficial for twice a year for the advisory counsel to get updates.

IIT UPDATE

Nichole Ditchman from the Department of Psychology, Lewis College of Science and Letters, Illinois Institute of Technology was next to present.

Illinois Tech Partner Update for Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Project

Two tech trainings have been developed. One is for providers, (CILs, DRS Counselors, School staff) the other is designed for families.

Meg Murphy provided update on Wellness Sessions that have been launched. These are targeted to youth service providers.

There are 4 sessions focusing on:

Session 1 Reducing Compassion Fatigue and Burnout with Self-Care Strategies

- 7 participants. All participants strongly agreed that the content was relevant, useful, easy to understand, and high in quality.

Session 2 Engaging in Meaningful Work Using PERMA

- 9 participants. All participants strongly agreed that the content was relevant, useful, easy to understand, and high in quality.

Session 3 Tapping into Personal Strengths to Promote Student Outcomes

- 9 participants. All participants strongly agreed that the content was relevant, useful, easy to understand, and high in quality.

Session 4 Building a Sense of Community Among Providers

(This session scheduled for March 18, 2025.)

Eun-Jeong Lee presented on Family Empowerment Sessions set for kick-off in April 2025.

Session 1 – April 15, 2025 Family Engagement in Services

Session 2 – April 22, 2025 Promoting Self-Determination in Youth with Disabilities

Session 3 - April 29, 2025 Self-Care for Caregivers

Nichole Ditchman presented on Provider Trainings

Session 1 – Building Trust and Effective Stakeholder Partnerships

Session 2 – Best Practices for Participatory Program Evaluation

Session 3 – Utilizing Evaluation Results to Improve Programming for Transition-Age Youth

More information will be shared as dates are set.

Technical Assistance Groups may be set up as an optional virtual biweekly/monthly problem-solving session for CIL partners. The goal for these groups would be to improve collaboration, problem-solve challenges, and share successes.

Summary of Progress:

- Facilitator and Participant manuals finalized
- Website developed
- First Wellness Program almost completed
- Session evaluation form developed
- Feedback and evaluation tracking system for IIT programs set up
- Initiating Technical Assistance group
- Connecting with CILs and school partners
- Participate in Program Evaluation Group

General group discussion generated requests for fliers to be sent digitally so they can be printed and sent home with students. Group discussion also brought up the potential need to make this all accessible in Spanish in the future.

WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS

Aimee Julian noted that August will be hosted in Bloomington.

ADJOURNMENT

David Kuriniec closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their presentations and work.

Aimee Julian ended the meeting.