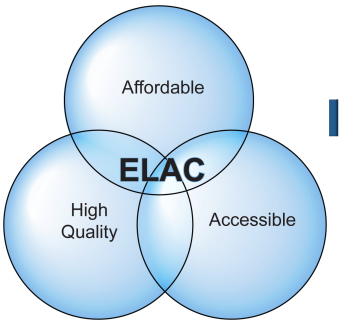

INDIANA EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Child Development and Well-being Workgroup

September 11, 2014

MEMBERS

Kevin Bain

Melanie Brizzi

Charlie Geier

Beckie Minglin

Tammy Veselsky

Alonzo Weems

ADVISORY MEMBERS

John Burnett

Connie Sherman

Background / Process: Members of the Child Development and Well-being Workgroup researched various statements and definitions regarding kindergarten readiness as adopted and articulated by other states, accreditation organizations (i.e. NAEYC), and recognized early childhood experts. Workgroup members discussed the definitions over a series of meetings and collected additional feedback from their respective organizations, networks and partners. Workgroup chairpersons solicited input from the ELAC chairperson to ensure that the emerging definition would meet expectations and was aligned with recommendations coming from other workgroups.

Recommendation: The Child Development and Well-Being Workgroup proposes the following Definition of Kindergarten Readiness:

"In Indiana we work together so that every child can develop to his or her fullest potential – socially, emotionally, physically, cognitively and academically. Through growth in all of these domains, the child will become a healthy, capable, competent and powerful learner."

Rationale: Workgroup members believe this definition encompasses the aspirational goals that are critical for all children to be ready for kindergarten. Knowing that communities across Indiana differ in many ways, this definition allows for flexibility in how children become ready for kindergarten. It is intended to be inclusive of all potential partners – such as families, communities, schools, and others – who may play a role in providing affordable, developmentally-appropriate and culturally-responsive experiences that contribute to children's growth. The Child Development and Well-Being Workgroup expects to work with the Evaluation of Child Outcomes Workgroup to define more specific indicators and measures that demonstrate children are ready for kindergarten.

Full ELAC Committee Decision:
The ELAC Committee voted in favor of this definition as is, without any changes.