



Service Delivery Area 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Summary April 13, 2022

View the recording of this meeting here: <https://youtu.be/hOtQALiPcFs>

1. Call to Order and Meeting Overview:
 - a. SDA 3 RAC Chair made welcoming remarks orienting participants to the purpose of the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meeting, called the meeting to order, provided an overview of the agenda items and goals, and discussed meeting systems and procedures.
2. Introductions:
 - a. Members introduced themselves by sharing their names and professional role.
 - b. Members present included: Alexandra Hall, Diane Pike, Starla Haggard, Vivian Brown, Mistie Timmons, Courtney Veintimilia, Constance Young, Michelle Terry, and Hannah Banks.
3. Reviewed Old Business:
 - a. At the beginning of each Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meeting, the Council reviews action items and recommendations from the previous meeting and discusses progress.
 - b. You can view past meeting minutes, recommendations, and their related action plan for each Service Delivery Area (SDA) on the SPARK website: <http://indianaspark.com/regional-advisory-councils/>. In addition, you can find more information about these recommendations and updates on the [SDA 3 website](#) and in the meeting slide deck.
 - c. SDA 3 RAC Members requested a process for submitting comments and questions anonymously between RAC meetings. SPARK created a digital suggestion box for members to anonymously submit comments, questions, or suggestions between quarterly RAC meetings. LINK: [SDA 3 Suggestion Box](#)
4. New Business
 - a. OECOSL Provider Recognition Program:
 - i. To acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Indiana's early education teachers and out-of-school-time professionals, OECOSL released an opportunity for colleagues, families, and system staff to nominate those who showed exemplary skills and are making a difference in their community.
 - ii. In this initial round, over 200 nominations were received. As a result, we are pleased to recognize individuals throughout the state with the Outstanding Educator Award Certificate and funds to purchase additional materials for their classrooms.
 1. Congratulations to Alichia St. Myer and Alisia Jackson for your dedication to the children, families, and ECE community.
 - b. Post Build Learn Grow Stabilization Grant Updates:
 - i. RAC Members discussed post-grant needs and best practices. The conversation has been mainly about the grants and application process. SDA 2 moved the conversation from securing the funding to discussing ongoing grant documentation, business ownership, and stewardship practices for sustainability.
 - ii. RAC Members engaged in zoom polls and the following discussion questions: What challenges are you and your peers facing post-grant? What resources or



Service Delivery Area 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Summary April 13, 2022

tools do you wish you had access to? What best advice, support, or resources have you been given?

- iii. Below is a summary of the RAC member discussion:
 - 1. RAC members see the recruitment of families and children as the world opens up and how to communicate with the community that we are still open.
 - 2. RAC members discussed the need for additional resources within the accounting, reporting, and taxes for the ECE community.
 - 3. RAC members also discussed the need for the ECE community to continue exploring the share resources model and how that can impact the industry's future.
 - a. SPARK and OECOSL are partnering to offer an industry-wide free shared service, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).
 - b. Mental Health & Wellness (EAP information) links <https://indianaspark.com/wellness-and-mental-health-support/>.
 - 4. RAC members discussed the effects of post-BLG and the economy on families and how the CCDF funding model.
 - 5. RAC members stated the best resources offered were the recognition the industry received along with essential worker status within the ECE community.
- iv. SPARK shared the following information:
 - a. Intensive business support is available in the My SPARK Learning lab, upcoming LIVE resources, and Business Cohorts.
 - b. Interested programs may contact BusinessSupport@indianaspark.com to get more information and enroll.
- c. DRAFT Updates Early Learning Foundations, Indiana Department of Education Office of Teaching and Learning: Below is the overview of proposed updates (Information on the video starts at mark 20:12).
 - i. Addition of one new Science Foundation and a variety of indicators
 - ii. Realignment with the 2020 Indiana Academic Standards
 - iii. The notation of Foundations topics aligned to Skills, Knowledge, or Behavior (SVB) items in the ISPROUT assessment
 - iv. Streamlining and clarifications of the Social Studies and Creative Arts topics
 - v. Increasing Foundations accessibility through screen readers readability improvement.
 - vi. Ensuring that language is inclusive toward all providers and children, easily understood, and incorporates up-to-date terminology
 - vii. The addition of the following competencies under the Kindergarten Standards column: Mindset, Collaboration, Critical-Thinking, Connection, Insight, Regulation, and Sensory-Motor Integration
 - viii. For additional support, please see the [Foundations Guidance in the Indiana Learning Lab](#); this guidance is a resource for education to support and enhance children's learning and development while using the Foundations and is meant to serve as a suggestion for practice from birth to age five.



**Service Delivery Area 3
Regional Advisory Council
Meeting Summary April 13, 2022**

- ix. Sign up for INspirEDearly newsletter through IDOE by viewing the Aprils newsletter and clicking on the orange button that says follow Sarah Parks-Reese: <https://www.smore.com/erm0f-inspiredearly>
- d. The State of *Paths to Quality*
 - i. Background Information
 - 1. There are an estimated 400 programs that have an expired PTQ rating statewide. SDA 3 Data has 99 programs with expired PTQ ratings (48 Licensed Center, 40 Licensed Home, 11 Ministry)
 - 2. The loss of PTQ ratings affects programs in various ways, such as a reduction in funding and recognition of quality programming throughout the state.
 - ii. SPARK clarified the current PTQ Rating Process
 - 1. First, know your expiration date.
 - 2. Second, self-assess your program using the applicable Readiness Checklist found on I-LEAD in "My SPARK Learning Lab."
 - 3. Third, complete a Confirmation Checklist, which can also be found on "My SPARK Learning Lab."
 - 4. Fourth, send the completed Confirmation Checklist to PTQ@indianaspark.com
 - 5. Finally, a SPARK coach will review the checklist and respond when the rating has been requested or with any questions or additional information.
 - iii. PTQ Expiration Communication Process
 - 1. PTQ Rating Expiration Communication
 - a. Programs scheduled to expire in 6 months, three months, and 60 days receive an email and text message from OECOSL.
 - b. Programs that have expired will receive a mailed letter informing them and providing options, including support with making their rating request.
 - c. If the expired program does not respond after receiving the letter, a SPARK Coach will attempt to contact them by phone and email.
 - d. If the program does not respond, the program is automatically decreased to Level 1.
 - iv. Paths to Quality Discussion
 - 1. The RAC members have presented the following questions: What challenges are you and/or your peers facing? How do you currently prepare and support your program throughout the PTQ process? How would you like SPARK to contact you regarding your expiration date if this was your program?
 - a. RAC members discussed having the appropriate percentage of staff qualified in the education and training requirements.
 - i. SPARK stated they should not let staffing be the issue interfering with your PTQ visit! There are supports!
 - b. RAC members prepare staff, and then they leave the program. In a constant state of onboarding and high- the cost of turnover.
 - c. RAC members are enjoying the text messages.
 - 2. SPARK Business Resources & Programming: PTQ Training Calendar, My



**Service Delivery Area 3
Regional Advisory Council
Meeting Summary April 13, 2022**

Spark Learning Lab PTQ Resources, or Join a PTQ Cohort.

3. SPARK Support:
 - a. Paths to QUALITY: <https://indianaspark.com/ptq-supports/>
 - b. Contact out Path to Quality Support team at PTQ@indianaspark.com
 - c. Call SPARK Help Desk

7. THINK TANK:

- a. Invite RAC members to bring up current industry trends, concerns, or topics for peer discussion and support.
 - i. No additional comments or discussion.

8. Public Comment

- a. Invite public comments and questions that have not been covered by an agenda item. Attendees are encouraged to enter comments/questions into the Zoom chat if they are more comfortable.
 - i. No additional public comments

9. Agreements and Action Items

- a. Based on what was presented, RAC discussion, and public comment, the RAC brought forth the following recommendations/agreements for SPARK Learning Lab and/or partners to consider:
 - i. No formal recommendations.

10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. SDA 3 RAC Meeting will be on September 21st, 2022, at 12:30 EST.
 - i. A hybrid meeting option will be available. The meeting location will be established and posted online.
- b. The RAC members had no additional comments or agenda items for the next meeting.
- c. Stay Connected with SPARK
 - i. Sign up for the SPARK newsletter: <http://indianaspark.com/>
 - ii. SPARK Group Features
 - iii. Follow SPARK on social media!
 1. [Facebook](#)
 2. [Twitter](#)
 3. [Instagram](#)
 - iv. Email RAC@indianaspark.com with questions

10. Adjournment