



Service Delivery Area 4 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Summary April 20, 2022

View the recording of this meeting here: <https://youtu.be/V3krmjoWtK4>

1. Call to Order and Meeting Overview:
 - a. SDA 4 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: Alisha Savage, Barb Newton, Stephanny Stennis/ Finney, Lisa Walter, Jennifer Speer, and Taryn Summers.
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 4 website](#) and in the meeting slide deck.
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 Alisha Savage and Kelly Sipes 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 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:



**Service Delivery Area 4
Regional Advisory Council
Meeting Summary April 20, 2022**

1. RAC Members discussed how to spend money, train teachers, and find flexible ways to obtain CDA's for full-time staff. In addition, members discussed the need for an online program.
 2. RAC members requested to host additional in-person training options for continuing education for their staff and area programs. In addition, members want to learn more about mental health and trauma for kids and families they serve. Members are seeing additional support for ECE staff; however, now they hope to see more support for classrooms.
- 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.
 - ix. Sign up for the INspirEDearly newsletter through IDOE by viewing the Aprils newsletter and clicking on the orange button that says follow Sarah Parks-Reese: <https://www.smores.com/erm0f-inspiredearly>
- d. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)
- i. RAC members were presented with zoom polling questions and discussion questions: What are SPARK's commitment and dedication to DEI? What groups are not represented at the table? How should we engage them? What additional resources do you still need?
 1. RAC Members requested a resource and tool to support programs with an overview 101 tool of customs and cultures.



**Service Delivery Area 4
Regional Advisory Council
Meeting Summary April 20, 2022**

2. RAC Members requested a 1-page resource sheet of all the Spark Resources on DEI (over 50 resources and training related to DEI).
 3. RAC members request more information on books and resources for children. In addition, they want more information on assessing books and resources, such as a list of vetted books for various age ranges. Providers are not seeing a lot of books on special needs, inclusivity for LGBTQ, living with grandparents, or non-traditional families.
 4. RAC members stated that the programs and the ECE community need to get more tied into the medical community and are unrepresented at the table.
- e. The State of *Paths to Quality*
- i. Background Information
 1. There are an estimated 400 programs that have an expired PTQ rating statewide. SDA 4 Data has 36 programs with expired PTQ ratings (12 Licensed Center, 19 Licensed Home, 4 Ministry, 1 LEA)
 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 Questions
 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?



**Service Delivery Area 4
Regional Advisory Council
Meeting Summary April 20, 2022**

- a. RAC Members advocated streamlining the PTQ expiration date.
 - b. SPARK communicated to providers that PTQ calls and texts are calling from the brighter future hotline/ ELI solutions. SPARK suggested that providers save the phone number on the phone. Save as a Contact on your phone: Brighter Futures Hotline 1-800-299-1627.
 2. SPARK Business Resources & Programming: PTQ Training Calendar, My 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. Public Comment
- a. Invite public comments and questions that an agenda item has not covered. Attendees are encouraged to enter comments/questions into the Zoom chat if they are more comfortable.
 - i.
8. 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. RAC members requested the need for continuing education (CEUs) for staff in their community. In addition, members asked for more in-person group learning opportunities and specific training on mental health and trauma.
 - ii. RAC members requested more information on assessing books and resources to support DEI. They would like a vetted book or resource list to support DEI for various age ranges. Providers are not seeing a lot of books on special needs, inclusivity for LGBTQ, living with grandparents, or non-traditional families.
 - iii. RAC Members requested a 101 resource tool to support programs with an overview of customs and cultures.
 - iv. RAC Members requested a 1-page resource sheet of all the Spark Resources on DEI (over 50 resources and training related to DEI).
9. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- a. SDA 4 RAC Meeting will be on September 21st, 2022, at 3:00 EST.
 - i. A hybrid meeting option will be available. The meeting location will be established and posted online.
 - b. The RAC members suggested the following topics for the next meeting
 - i. Mental support and resources focused more on children and how to support them.
 - ii. How to address and support developmental delays in speech and language given masks. Children are not testing or sounding out their letters well.



**Service Delivery Area 4
Regional Advisory Council
Meeting Summary April 20, 2022**

- iii. PATINS invite to talk about their programming. They are out of Indianapolis, give an iPad with the app and help provide support.
 - iv. Additional supports on sustaining the salary increase moving forward after the grant funding.
10. Stay Connected with SPARK
- v. Sign up for the SPARK newsletter: <http://indianaspark.com/>
 - vi. SPARK Group Features
 - vii. Follow SPARK on social media!
 - 1. [Facebook](#)
 - 2. [Twitter](#)
 - 3. [Instagram](#)
 - viii. Email RAC@indianaspark.com with questions
11. Adjournment