

# CONNECTING

Elgin Partnership for Early Learning Newsletter

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## What is EPEL?

*EPEL is the Elgin Partnership for Early Learning, but what does that mean to the Elgin community?*

EPEL is a community-based collaboration to ensure the healthy growth and development of young children and their families. EPEL's role in this goal is to coordinate, convene and implement improvements across all systems serving young children and their

families, including health, early learning and family support services. The EPEL collaboration is focused on quality of services, access and utilization of services, and understanding and improving outcomes for young children.

Ultimately EPEL is made up of, and will be successful with, the dozens of organizations and partners that carry out shared activities for the community.

## What has EPEL been working on?

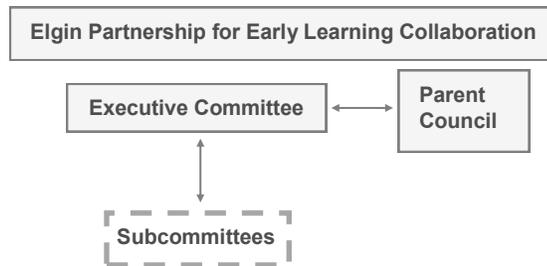
### Recent Activities

#### ⇒ Three Year Work Plan

EPEL finalized a three year work plan for the collaboration, the content of which reflects input of over 100 partners and professionals. Thank you for your help developing the focus of EPEL's work. The four areas of the plan are described below.

#### ⇒ Foundational Charter

Organizational details of the new collaboration have been laid out in a Charter. The Charter speaks to the reasons for forming EPEL, the principles behind EPEL's strategic approach and the organizational design EPEL will use to carry out the work in the community. The Charter includes an organizational chart depicting the structure.



#### ⇒ Staffing Plan

The Executive Committee of EPEL is working to secure funding to support staffing the collaboration. A search process will launch in mid February to hire a Collaboration Director. The Director will lead EPEL into the next phase of systems change work in Elgin. To receive the posting, email [info@elginpartnership.org](mailto:info@elginpartnership.org).

**Work Plan Goals**

- \*Enhance coordination of, access to, and utilization of resources for families of young children;
- \*Utilize professional training and capacity building efforts to raise service quality;
- \*Define and coordinate a shared measurement system for community data;
- \*Grow the collaboration to increase impact of shared vision, shared activities and system level change to benefit Elgin

## What's on the Horizon?

### Growing the Collaboration

You may be wondering how to get involved and what Collaboration membership means. Collaboration members include stakeholders, community partners, professionals, and families of young children. Members inform and advise the priorities, advance the work of EPEL, and spread common messages to support all children in Elgin. Members will actively participate by serving on Subcommittees. *Subcommittees will be formed around the Work Plan, email with questions or interest: [info@elginpartnership.org](mailto:info@elginpartnership.org).*

### Subcommittee Forming

EPEL believes that all Elgin parents should have access to quality educational information on parenting and child development. A Subcommittee with the charge to ensure coordinated and broadly available parent education will be launched this spring. An informational meeting on this work and the Subcommittee forming will be held on:

**March 20th, 8:30—11am      RSVP: [info@elginpartnership.org](mailto:info@elginpartnership.org)**

### Full Collaboration Meeting

The first full Elgin Partnership for Early Learning Collaboration meeting will be held in late spring. The meeting will include content speakers, discussion and launch of additional components of the Collaboration, and strategic input on Collaboration activities.

**Watch for a save the date with additional information in the coming month.**