



**Community Systems  
in Illinois:  
A Quick History**

# Community Systems Development in Illinois

AOK  
Networks

Building  
Blocks

ECAP  
(2012)

Innovation  
Zones

ABLe  
Change



# Why Does Community Systems Work Matter?



- Without it, there is no “owner” of overall early childhood work at the local level
- This results in:
  - Uncoordinated program development and implementation
  - Competition for program participants
  - Most-at-risk children and families not being served
  - Lost opportunities for connected, coherent services
  - Inability to capitalize on opportunities for growth in direct services
    - E.g., chaotic growth of PFA services in expansion years
    - Facilities shortage that no one is responsible to address
  - Lack of local investment in ECE services



# From Early Learning Council



Community System Development aims to ensure the healthy growth and optimal development of young children in the context of their families.

Community collaborations with mature systems develop coordinated and integrated local service delivery across health, early care and education, social service and other service systems.

These community systems create and implement collaborative strategies and activities that address the unique needs, cultures, and strengths of local communities while working to achieve the state's early childhood vision.



## CSD Conversation



- **Theresa Hawley**, Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Innovation, Illinois Action for Children
- **Lynn Burgett**, Early Childhood Division Supervisor at the Illinois State Board of Education
- **Julia Zhu**, Community Systems Policy Director in the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development