



MEETING NOTES

Region 33 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 10/26/22- 2:00-4:00pm

Council Members present:

Erin Brown-Powell, Tara Case, Pam Gaither, Amy Gipe, Rhonda Hillyer, Gorette Kupa, John Mabon, Lisa Medina-Foshay, Malia Owens, Mary Reed, Peter Schwartzman, Jodi Scott, Kim Stickell, Roy Van Meter

Council Members absent:

Josh Gibb, Miranda Gullberg, Emily Henry, Anthony Law, Esther Ogunrinde, Scott Rasso

2:00pm: Introduction/Ice Breaker (15 minutes)

Notes:

In honor of Halloween, members shared their biggest fear with their neighbor.

Neighbors shared out their partners names and biggest fears.

Fears included: *Bees, Snakes, Heights, Clowns, Bats, Centipedes, Sharks*

Decisions made:

Next meeting- tentatively:

November 9th, 2022

3:00-5:00pm

Head Start

321 E. Euclid Ave.

Monmouth, IL. 61462

Next Steps:

Regional Manager will send out Meeting minutes through email. Regional Manager will follow up with individual Council Members as needed.



2:07pm: Monthly Meeting Purpose and Itinerary (3 minutes)

Notes:

Regional Scan Data to be reviewed by Month (Handout Provided)

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Schedule Meetings

2:10pm: Data Review (15 minutes)

Notes:

Council Members formed 3 groups (2 in person/1 online) and reviewed Data:

- Federal Poverty Level

- Number of Children in Region: 0-2 & 3-5

- Number of Children in Region by Race & Ethnicity

- Family Demographics

Decisions made: NA

Next Steps:

Guided Questions & Discussion

2:40pm: Data Review (15 minutes)

Questions to Discuss:

- 1) What does this information tell us about our region?
 - a. The data is old.
 - b. Not much childcare.
 - c. Not enough for the number of children
 - d. Causes of lack of ECEC
 - e. # of centers could serve? But is employment of providers the problem?
 - f. # of facilities is right- the number of children is not.
 - g. # of children is under-reported.
- 2) What impact did Covid have on early childcare providers in the region?



- a. Providers lost
 - b. Classroom sizes shrunk
 - c. Families found alternatives
 - d. Families working from home
 - e. Center's hours more restrictive after covid.
 - f. Effected staffing
 - g. Summer programs harder to find too.
 - h. Less people willing to work with children because of increased disciplinary issues.
 - i. Babies non-socialized after 2 years of lockdown are struggling in programs- harder for workforce.
 - j. ECEC sites were shutting down before COVID due to unstable funding sources and increased unfunded mandates.
- 3) Are there any early childcare providers missing from the list/map?
- a. Provider data appears up to date.
- 4) What is the current FPL, FPL 100%, FPL 200%? Can families within those FPLs afford childcare in our region?
- a. FPL (4 member Household)= \$20,813
 - b. FPL 100% (4 member Household)= \$27,750
 - c. FPL 200% (4 member Household)= \$55,500
 - d. No
- 5) Are the early childcare providers near areas of high poverty, close to public transportation (if available), close to where children live, etc.?
- a. ECEC desert in Henderson County
 - b. Waiting lists in Galesburg
 - c. Waiting lists in Henderson County
 - d. Waiting lists in Home Providers
 - e. Vast spaces with low population vs. Urban communities with inadequate workforce
- 6) What information is missing, or would be helpful to better understand this data?
- a. # of slots for infants?
 - b. What do parents want and need?
 - c. Affordability of child care.
 - d. How many parents in slot gap- want child care?
 - e. Waiting lists from ALL providers in 1 place.
 - f. Warehouse of ALL availability and waiting list of parents



- g. Increase in funding rates due to policy change/inflation/cost of living increases.
 - h. How many centers closed due to unfunded mandates and government shutdown?
- 7) Why is it important to understand the demographics of our region?
 - a. Understanding gaps in services
 - b. Dose of empathy for families and providers
 - c. To assess and discern best solutions for improving our society.
- 8) What are the Root causes of the Gap in care?
 - a. Unreasonable requirements, credentialing and mandates.
 - b. Low reimbursement for providers.
 - c. Not enough qualified staff.
 - d. Insufficient Funding
 - e. Licensing process is ambiguous.
 - f. Standards and recognition changing- Providers lose their status/rating after years of achieving due to change in criteria.
 - g. Educating families on importance of ECEC.
- 9) What data is missing that would be helpful?
 - a. # of slots for infants
 - b. Data on unlicensed providers
- 10) Besides slot Gap- what other indicators should be considered?
 - a. Parents/Families needs

Decisions made:

Next Meeting: Tentatively set for *November 9th, 2022 from 3:00-5:00pm at Monmouth HeadStart.*

Next Steps:

Council Members to respond to email from Regional Manager for their availability for next meeting to be held at Monmouth Head Start on November 9th- from 3:00-5:00pm.

Regional Manager sending out Meeting Minutes and following up with individual Council members as needed.

3:50pm: Meeting Adjourned