



Action Council Meeting.

Date: February 20, 2024.

Attended:

Donna Emmons, Susan Beckman, Shelley Kinney, Elena Galarza, Elyse Sereyka.

Agenda.

1. Review Group Agreements.
 - a. Nicole reviewed some of the new group agreements that were added at the last meeting.
2. Guest Speaker: Michelle Prickett, Executive Director at Kids in Need.
 - a. Michelle spoke about Kids in Need and what they do to help children and families in our community. She spoke about her personal experiences about the foster care system as well as the lack of mental and behavioral health for children in our Region.
 - b. After Michelle left the meeting, the Council Members discussed: what was learned about early childhood mental and behavioral health from her.
3. Mental and Behavioral Health Data Collection.
 - a. Nicole showed the mental and behavioral health data collected from those that service children ages birth to five in our Region. Nicole asked for the council to think of anyone else who may not be on the list and told the council she would email the spreadsheet to the members so they could have a closer look and add to it. The Council Members then discussed:
 - i. How does the number of providers affect children and families?
 - ii. What does the mental and behavioral landscape look like for families?
 - iii. What services, resources, and referrals are available to them?
 - iv. Who is missing out on the opportunity to connect with mental and behavioral health services due to location or other barriers?
4. Referral Process for Families.
 - a. Referring to the mental and behavioral health survey results for our Region, Nicole spoke about what people are saying the referral process is like as well as waitlists and drive times to get to a specialist. The Council Members then discussed:
 - i. What is the referral process like based on your experiences?
 - ii. What impact does waiting on mental and behavioral health services have on families?

iii. What experiences have you noticed families and caregivers have had with a referral process?

5. Discuss Next Steps.

- a. Nicole let the Council Members know that at our next meeting the topic will be on early childhood mental health consultants and our guest speaker will be an infant/toddler mental health consultant.
- b. Nicole reminded the Council Members that she will email the data spreadsheet to all of them to look over and add any direct service providers, referrals or resource agencies that reside within our Region that are not on the list already.