



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 49 Action Council Meeting

**Date & Time: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 – 1:30-3:00pm**

Council Members present: April Berthiaume, Danen Busch, Melissa Gravert, Janet Hill, Tess Hurt, Kate Jennings, Cindy Mahr, Tammy Muerhoff, James Richardson Jr., Marcia Seabolt, Michael Terry, Lisa Williams  
Council Members absent: Beverly Clark, Andrea Flannery, Lindsay Meeker, Marcy Mendenhall, Tiera Teague

#### Welcome & Future Community Question

When the children of our community are grown up, what kind of people do you want them to be? How are you assisting them right now with getting there?

- Neighbors like those from Mr. Rogers neighborhood
- Happy, healthy, and productive – through openness, honesty, transparency, stability
- Understanding one's importance as an individual, but more so as part of a bigger, collective community
- Confident, self-sufficient, good community members
- Ability to use open communication with no judgement
- Helpful to others, practicing kindness, forgiveness, and grace
- Possess a healthy balance of safety and trust
- Welcoming, break down division
- Have a sense of safety, belonging, empowerment, and opportunity
- Feel a sense of safety and home
- Using the mantra: "You are smart. You are strong. You are kind. You are capable of doing hard things."
- Well-rounded, great citizens

#### ECEC Services: What is working vs. what is not working?

##### Preschool For All: Working

- Licensed teacher present 3 hours per day in child care program
- Funding for support staff and materials



- Provide additional supports such as parental education
- PFA is a part-time option while full-time options are most prominent
- Agency/community collaboration
- Child care staff is providing continuity of care
- Number of children able to be served is fair

#### **Preschool for All: Not Working**

Teacher and staff awareness of health/illness risks, signs, promoting healthy hygiene.

- 3 hours is a short time frame for children to have access
- Most parents need “wrap around” child care services
- Child care centers need full-time enrollments for financial sustaining; hesitant to accept children part-time
- Funding would have to be grossly increased to support full-day preschool
- PFA cannot provide IEP services/supports
- Difficulty in receiving needed services/interventions for children ages 3 to 5
- Services are dependent upon parental willingness and cooperation
- Services are dependent upon relationship between school district and service provider
- Services no longer come to the child; child must leave their child care arrangement to travel to the necessary service
- Bussing only required of PFA within school district
- Family support specialist role - continue this family support
- Administrative complexities

#### **Preschool For All Expansion: Working**

- Expansion of hours
- Mirrors average first grade classroom time
- Serves children ages 3 to 5

#### **Preschool For All Expansion: Not Working**

- Funding shortfalls
- Transportation
- Programmatic funding
- Teacher salary

#### **Prevention Initiative/Home Visiting: Working**

- Center based
- Community based



- Family support specialists
- Continuity of care - teacher stays with child throughout program
- Classroom at Rock Island High School Teen Parent Center
- Mental Health Consultant on staff
- Coaching program available
- Year-round intensive service
- 84 children served in region
- Serve families 1st trimester of pregnancy to child aged 5 years
- Comprehensive familial wellness program
- Program is working for those who are able to access
- Can work alongside Early Intervention services

#### **Prevention Initiative/Home Visiting: Not Working**

- 84 slots seems low
- Waitlists exist
- Patchwork of services to address those who are unable to access
- Lack of funding
- Needs of families are more profound now; trauma and crisis, less self-sufficient, less coping skills
- Not enough supports for staff
- Lack of interpreters
- Inability to adequately serve refugee families
- Income qualifications restricting middle-income families
- Desperate need for universal care with fair wages for staff retention

#### **Child Care Assistance Program: Working**

- Income eligible program; 225% FPL initial application
- Working or obtaining an education
- Initial approval (temporary policy) without a job
- 1 year eligibility
- Can make up to 275% FPL
- 90 day phase-out program AMI
- New (simplified) application anticipated
- Helps families participate in ECEC programs
- Providers who accept CCAP become eligible for certain granting programs
- ExceleRate rated providers who accept CCAP receive a % add-on for each CCAP funded child



### Child Care Assistance Program: Not Working

- Parent responsibility to report job and income changes
- Long wait time for new applications
- Sharp increase in new applications
- Staffing shortages within CCR&R
- Specific paperwork needed
- Paper-only program; no online option
- Providers are often left with the financial burden of denied CCAP paperwork
- Governmental delays for payments
- Reimbursement rate doesn't match the true cost of care - flat daily rate
- Program pays in arrears
- Program does not pay providers for holidays or closure dates
- Providers must charge private pay the same that CCAP reimburses (advocacy being done to decouple CCAP & private rates)

**“Be a peace maker instead of peace breaker. That makes a real strong community, no matter what community you’re a part of – just eliminate division.”**

### Next Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 – 1:30-3:00PM

BridgePointe - 1 Montgomery Drive – Moline, IL 61265

Zoom link for virtual attendees:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81254094810?pwd=cjRsRktCMnVXUEEx5VFhFTVhNV2FRZz09>