



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 47 Action Council Meeting

**Location:** Zoom

**Date & Time:** February 14, 2023, 10:15am-11:15am

**Council Members present:** Andrea Cossey, Rachael DeSpain, Aaqil Khan, Diana Merdian, Krista Peterson, Beth Smaka, Lauren Stafford

**Council Members absent:** Liz Buckwalter, Kimberly Crump, Maggie Fern, Anji Garza, Lisa Lilja, Diane Lynn Ott, Lois Meisenheimer, Kris Noble, Monica Wolfley

#### **10:15am Welcome and Early Childhood Education and Care Programs Data (5 minutes)**

Notes: Members were sent a pre-presentation video and document with data on Early Childhood Education and Care Programs.

#### **10:20am Region 47 Report Card Activity (45 minutes)**

Notes: The Action Council participated in a "Report Card" activity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Early Childhood Education and Care programs in our region. Members looked at programs, but also various components of these programs. Those topics included transportation, waitlists & enrollment, marketing, parent education, referrals, and kindergarten readiness. Some key points from the group discussion were:

- There is a need for more accessible public transportation throughout the region. The current system requires calling ahead and many community members may not have knowledge of this service or the time/ability to use it.
- Waitlists for child care programs are long and now some programs are keeping track of inquiries made even if a family does not join the waitlist to get a better sense of the actual need versus the number of families currently waiting.
- Marketing of Early Childhood Education materials has started to shift with the Regional Office of Education creating informational flyers to distribute at schools, doctor offices, and other places where families would frequent. Families throughout the region often do not know what agencies, schools, or services are available.
- Region 47 uses IRIS (Integrated Referral and Intake System). Since its start in 2021, it has expanded to be a centralized system that connects families to organizations for services.



- Our region is working to improve the components of Early Childhood Education and Care Programs, but this is a work in progress for many things. Many areas of improvement are tied to the workforce and funding. The Action Council will start to discuss the workforce in our next meeting.

**11:05am Early Childhood Programs Large Group Discussion Wrap-Up (5 minutes)**

Notes: Members wrapped up the discussion of the various topics related to Early Childhood Education and Care and discussed what community voice we are missing and who could be a good fit for a Focus Group or interview.

**Follow-up/Next Steps:** Abby will be reaching out to members for more information on individuals whom Action Council members feel would be a good fit for a Focus Group/ Interview.

Next Meeting:

Date: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Time: 2:00pm-3:30pm