



MEETING NOTES

Region 49 Action Council Meeting

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

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

Welcome & Opening Question

How do you talk to children about some people having more than others in society?

- “Equal isn’t necessarily fair.”
- Only necessary to make sure everyone has enough.
- Difference between tangible possessions versus support, love, presence of loved ones

Large Group Discussion: What We’re Learning

- **People in Custody**
 - Disconnected from children and family
 - Expensive to maintain communication
 - Need for rehabilitative services during time served
 - Assistance programs must stay active for the children
- **Families that face Language & Cultural Barriers**
 - Inability to obtain social services (languages are not offered)
 - Need for child care during ESL classes
 - Tours/Lessons for commuting via public transportation
- **Children impacted by the Child Welfare System**
 - Need support; caseworkers overburdened by cases
 - Medical case management has risen dramatically over past 3 years
 - Mental health system needed for children who have experienced trauma
 - Medically-specialized children need guaranteed care



- **Families that reside in Rural Rock Island County**
 - Lack of child care options; patchwork of care for coverage
 - Lack of transportation to child care outside of district
 - Median wage often prohibits participation in any assistance programs

- **Low Caregiver Educational Attainment**
 - Contributes largely to familial poverty
 - Inability to support children in educational programs

- **Children with Disabilities**
 - Exclusion from EI services leads to future academic turbulence
 - Lack of accessible services for children with disabilities

- **Teen Parents**
 - High school-based child care center
 - Supportive and community environment
 - Respect given to young parents
 - Resourceful in connecting with services

Next Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 – 1:30-3:00PM

BridgePointe - 1 Montgomery Drive – Moline, IL 61265

Zoom link for virtual attendees:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88486718868?pwd=TWREbUhkRDVhOGxvUkxhNHE1RCt5dz09>