



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 49 Action Council Meeting

**Date & Time: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 1:30-3:00pm**

Council Members present: April Berthiaume, Danen Busch, Melissa Gravert, Janet Hill, Tess Hurt, Cindy Mahr, Kate Jennings, Lindsay Meeker, Tiera Teague, Michael Terry, Lisa Williams

Council Members absent: Tammy Muerhoff, James Richardson Jr., Beverly Clark, Andrea Flannery, Marcy Mendenhall, Marcia Seabolt

#### **Welcome, Introduction & Review of Community Agreements**

Action Council and members introduce themselves and review community agreements.

#### **Findings**

- **Child care is not accessible for all families.**
- **Navigating ECEC systems is hard.**
  - CCAP qualification & access misrepresented by 2020 data.
- **ECE is too expensive.**
  - Subsidies available for higher education, but not ECE programs
- **There is a need for specialized care.**
- **Recruiting and retaining an ECEC workforce is difficult.**
  - Out of 7 child care centers in a CCR&R data program, 8 classroom closures are reported.
  - 35 lead teacher vacancies, 18 assistant teacher vacancies.
  - Credentialing process is not working for child care staff.
- **Higher education institutions are committed to educating current and future ECEC workforce.**
  - Bi-lingual assessment of prior learning
  - Programs encourage the use of ECACE Scholarship
- **Most understand the importance of ECEC programs and services.**
  - Regional leader in creating ECEC grants funded by ARPA funding.
  - More education needs to be given.
- **Local collaborations make the ECEC system better for all.**
- **Policy changes are not made based on provider and family weigh in.**
  - Well-networked providers have more resources.



- Resources seldom trickle down to smaller centers or family child care homes
- **We need more data!**
  - United Way/Born Learning
  - IL Staffing & Salary Report
    - Turnover is high.

#### Designation of Strengths & Weaknesses

- **Cost of Director & Staff Qualifications**

#### Regional Scan Review

- **Small group discussion reviewing sections of the Regional Scan Document**
  - Demographics
  - Local Collaborations
  - ECEC Programs

#### Next Meeting – Action Council

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – 1:30-3:00PM

BridgePointe - 1 Montgomery Drive – Moline, IL 61265

Zoom link for virtual attendees:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81254094810?pwd=cjRsRktCMnVXUEx5VFhFTVhNV2FRZz09>