



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 47 Action Council Meeting

**Location:** Zoom

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

**Council Members present:** Kimberly Crump, Maggie Fern, Anji Garza, Diane Lynn Ott, Lois Meisenheimer, Diana Merdian, Kris Noble, Krista Peterson, Beth Smaka, Monica Wolfley

**Council Members absent:** Andrea Cossey, Rachael DeSpain, Aaqil Khan, Lisa Lilja, Lauren Stafford

#### 10:15am Welcome & Updates (5 minutes)

Notes: Updates on Action Council work and a Regional Scan timeline.

Decisions made: On April 20<sup>th</sup> Action Council members will have an opportunity to give their feedback on the regional scan before the next meeting in May to discuss recommendations.

#### 10:20am Focus Group Updates (15 minutes)

Notes: Focus Groups and interview updates which include:

- 3 Parent Focus Groups (participants from all 3 counties)
- Child Care Providers
- Teachers (Pre-K-2)
- Administrators (School District and Head Start)
- Group working with Underrepresented Population
- Human Resource and Business Representative
- Human Service Agencies
- Faith Community
- Homeless Shelter

Notes: There were many topics discussed throughout various Focus Groups and interviews, but some common themes were: transportation, long waitlists, programs not meeting family's needs, barriers for Spanish-speaking families, parents needing to advocate for their children's needs, a need for more playgroup opportunities in the region and little awareness for the resources available in the Region.



### **10:35am Parents, Caregivers, and Families Engagement (40 minutes)**

Notes: Members were asked questions about parents' experiences with accessing Early Childhood Education and Care, resources, and trends in the region. Below are some points:

- Members shared the difficulty of raising a family in the region without access to services and child care.
- Discussed the need for families to have the information they need on child care and services in the community during infancy.
- There is an acknowledgment that community members have voiced their needs when it comes to Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in the region and sometimes do not see the results of their surveys, interviews, and focus groups they participate in.
- Families moving into a town with no child care options often change their dynamics from two working parents to one.
- Parents' awareness of resources in the community is needed with different outreach (flyers in doctor's offices, social media...etc.) but also parent education opportunities to engage families in the importance of ECEC.
- Play villages have great success and more opportunities should be available, especially in smaller towns.

### **11:15am Conclusion and Next Steps (10 minutes)**

Notes: Members wrapped up the Parent, Caregiver, and Family Engagement discussion. During the meeting on April 20, members will review the Regional Scan draft, and discuss needs, strengths, and recommendations.

**Follow-up/Next Steps:** We will remind members of the in-person meeting. Optionally, members can attend the Family Council in person on April 27 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.

Next Meeting:

Date: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Time: 9:00am-11:00am