



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 49 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 – 1:30-3:00pm

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

#### **Welcome, Introductions, & Identifying Engagement with Priority Populations**

Notes: Emily Cummings shared the results of a poll of Action Council members in reference to the priority populations that members serve. The two most prominent priority populations served by our Action Council members are 1) children living in families experiencing poverty, and 2) children and families facing barriers due to language, cultural or religious barriers. The Action Council members identified the priority populations they feel most comfortable in serving.

Decisions Made: Action Council members agreed that many priority populations are braided into the cause/effect of another priority population – all of which relating back to children and families living in poverty. There was a low amount of comfortability amongst Action Council members in how to best serve children and families experiencing homelessness.

#### **Family Council Update**

Notes: Emily Cummings shared the progress of the Family Council, noting the data exploration that occurred in the most recent Family Council meeting.

#### **Priority Populations**

Notes: Action Council members assessed the regional data for each of the following priority populations:

- Children of Teen Parents
- Families with Low Caregiver Educational Attainment
- Children Experiencing Homelessness
- Children in Families in Poverty or Deep Poverty
- Children in Families with Child Welfare Involvement
- Children Impacted by Parental Involvement in the Criminal Justice System



- Children with Disabilities
- Children of a Parent or Legal Guardian with a Disability
- Families that Face Barriers Based on Culture, Language, or Religion
- Children in Families Who Face Barriers Due to Immigration Status
- Children and Families with Refugee or Asylee Status
- Children of Migrant or Seasonal Workers

### **Small Group Discussion**

Notes: Action Council members reviewed data regarding priority populations. Members were tasked with identifying what is or is not working, as well as what needs are being met or what improvements need to be made to best serve the specific population.

### **Large Group Share Out**

Notes: After reviewing and discussing data, Action Council members were asked to share what assets and deficits exist per priority population.

Notable remarks:

- Poverty/fiscal cliff is being addressed by administration.
- There is shame and blame in parental participation in the child welfare system.
- Children of non-English speaking families are carrying the burden of the language barrier.
- Continue to use parental education to mitigate child welfare intervention.
- Is a lack of parental education a cyclical problem?
- We must explore beyond the symptoms to the root cause of the experiences of individuals characterized within our priority populations.

Action Council member, Beverly Clark, mentioned that service providers are often seen by customers as “**trusted messengers**” – those who can deliver reliable and reputable resources.

Next Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 – 1:30-3:00PM

Location: BridgePointe 485 – 1 Montgomery Dr. – Moline, IL 61265