



MEETING NOTES

Region 35 Action Council Meeting

Location: Ottawa, IL

Date & Time: 01/26/2023 @ 1:00pm to 2:45pm

Council Members present: Kira Pfeffinger, Rich Faivre, Lynn Sheedy

Council Members absent: Jackie Blackburn, Derek Kilmartin, Melissa Mital, Sara Markey, Denise Garthe

1:00pm Welcome and Introductions -Consent to Record (7min)

Notes: All in attendance approved

1:07pm Priority Population-Description (5min)

Notes:

- Materials: PowerPoint-Description of Priority Population per All Families Served Priority Populations Recommendation_Final_Approved.pdf (illinois.gov)

1:12pm Population Data (14min)

Notes:

- Shared Data for Birth to Five Illinois: Region 35 by PowerPoint

1:26pm Priority Population Persona (20min)

Description of Persona for Priority Population and General Discussion

Notes:

What are the barriers to Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)?

What are the causes of these barriers?

- “Balancing school, work, and possible transportation issues.”
- “Difficulty finding a medical provider and wait times for appointments for medical providers. Root cause limited providers.”
- “Definitely transportation and awareness of what early intervention is. Root cause financial barriers and knowledge base.”
- “I think it is difficult for a mother of this age to know where to go to get services.”
- “Local support groups lack existence in our area, depending on your location in Region 35.”



- “I am unable to afford child care or have the means to transport my child to the sites.”
- “Teens are spread out through the region so finding peers and support is difficult. Root cause: Large geographical rural area for region size.”
- “Offices are now asking patients to stay home if they do not feel well. When you have a young child who is having a child, it increases risks. We are understaffed in the medical field too.”
- “It takes 3 months to get into your doctor at OSF right now and on the flip side, there are long waiting lists to enroll your child into child care centers or home centers for that matter.”

1:46pm Scenario 1 (13min)

Notes:

You are the father of a one-year-old and a four-year-old. You lost employment during covid. You must move in with a family friend.

Notes:

- “Your situation is unstable. You are trying to find work and provide for your family. Unfortunately, taking the time to access these services may not be on top of the priority lost.”
- “A family friend’s home may uproot the family from other support systems and access to services may become more difficult.”
- “This could be an opportunity if the family friend is a positive role model.”
- “As a father, there is a stigma of “breadwinner” which brings its own set of trials and tribulations. This may deter him from asking for help.”
- “Child care assistance programs will not assist with payments unless the parent(s) are working full-time or in-school full-time.”

1:59pm Scenario 2 (7min)

Notes:

You are the mother of three children under five and you are making just over \$2000 a month working part-time.

- “Resources not publicized enough throughout the community for any random person to know what they are, how they will help, or where to find them.”
- “Child care is expensive for one child then you add in more than one, how will you be able to pay for care while you work?”
- “How do I pay for child care and still pay bills?”



2:06pm Scenario 3 (5min)

Notes:

You are a foster parent and a 3-year-old child with traumatic background has been placed in your care.

- “Additional social services the child may need will put a strain on the foster parents’ job to request additional time off.”
- “This is a tough one. I think that again, trying to navigate the system, although in this case, I would have to believe that DCFS is working to access services. I am not sure.”
- “Where is the line between creating trust and rapport with the child, versus finding resources for their needs?”
- “Although you may have fostered before, time and access to special services and a lack of prior knowledge on trauma may leave you feeling overwhelmed and intimidated.”

2:11pm Scenario 4 (17min)

Notes:

Your four-year-old child has recently been diagnosed with a developmental disability and is non-speaking.

- “Where do I go and whom can I trust?”
- “How do I know what they need/want without frustration? How do I know what else is going on with them?”
- “It is difficult to find these services. A limited number of schools in the area provide these services. In addition to the child being educated, we need to educate the parent.”
- “Diagnosis is a step in the right direction but where do we go from here?”
- “How do I communicate basic needs with my child as they learn and grow outside of communication?”

2:28pm Scenario 5 (12min)

Notes:

You and your two children, a 6-month-old and a 3-year-old are traveling from your home to find seasonal work in agriculture. Your children will need care 12-16 hours a day.

- “Many centers require a certain amount of time, or you pay anyway. So, the back and forth could cause issues finding spaces.”



- “Possibility of language barriers. Day care centers that are open for more than 12 hours would be difficult to find. Space availability.”

2:40pm Discussion Wrap up and adjournment-Schedule Future meetings (5min)

Notes:

- Reach out to the Department of Human Services (DHS) on how they are touching base with young families to provide education and resources.