



MEETING NOTES

Region 11 Action Council Meeting

Location: Tuscola Office

Date & Time: 2/23/23 5:30 – 7:35 pm

Council Members present: Dennis Pearson, Melissa Coleman, Jenifer Bonawitt, Tammy Helm, Kayli Bontrager

Council Members absent: Robin Hopper, Linda Gamble, Kiyla DiVoss, Daphne Boley, Lisa Flynn, Jennifer Buchter, Cori Moore, Amy Durdel, Laura Shull

Start Time: 5:30 Welcome (3 min)

Notes:

- Tammy welcomed everyone to the meeting, and she reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting.
- Tammy explained that the survey had been updated after the last meeting and that she forgot to send it out to everyone. This time everyone will get a survey, she promised.

Start Time: 5:33 Announcements (7 min)

Notes:

- Tammy stated that we'd be starting Focus Groups & Interviews and having Town Halls & surveys soon.
- We will be volunteering at the Haven in Mattoon tomorrow and we were going to do interviews with families with small children. However, since she made the appointment that family had left. We are still going to volunteer but she will keep in touch with them and when they have a family with small children she will go there and do an interview with the family.
- We have approximately 45 Preschool Roundup Screenings scheduled for February and March, and we've been really busy doing those.
- We were going to do an interview with a teen mom for the LIFT program but the person that was going to do the interview didn't show up. So, we are going to do something different. Instead of an interview, we will just send her a survey to see if she'll be more willing to do that. Tammy thinks it's just hard to connect with her as she is in school during the day and then she is also working, so she has limited time.



- Kayli gave a Family Council update.
 - Last Family Council meeting was Tuesday, 2/21, and we went over Early Childhood Education Desert activity like Action Council did to see how their opinions were different from Action Council's and how different perspectives can play a role in it.
 - Then we went over the same data that the Action Council reviewed in the last couple of meetings. We presented that to the Family Council so they could understand why their voice is so important.
 - We were having trouble getting people to come to Family Council meetings and we found out that it was due to them not all being available on the same day. So I created a second meeting so they will be able to choose which one is best for them to attend.

Start Time: 5:40 Meeting Objectives (2 min)

Notes:

- Tammy went over the meeting objectives for today's meeting.
 - What does the data tell us about the slot gap in Region 11?
 - What are the driving factors behind the numbers?

Start Time: 5:42 Slot Gap Activity (35 min)

Notes:

- Tammy explained that she has large Post-It notes on the wall and what they will do is work together and analyze the slot gap data that we have and be answering the questions.
- Tammy explained that she got the data from the Child Care Gap Assessment and she changed the map for each county. She also explained all the terms associated with the slot gap data in case someone didn't know and wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page.
- Everyone then proceeded to analyze the data for Clark, Coles, and Cumberland counties.

Start Time: 6:15 Break (15 min)



Notes:

- Everyone enjoyed pizza, salad, dessert, and conversation.

Start Time: 6:30 Slot Gap Activity (45 min)

Notes:

- Everyone came back together to finish analyzing the data for Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie, and Shelby counties.

Start Time: 7:15 Follow Up Questions & Conversation (20 min)

Notes:

- What does the data tell us?
 - Data suggests that we have no open slots. The wait list is at 3 – 30 with 60 at Head Start which means our families are continuously looking for child care.
- What are the driving factors behind the numbers?
 - The driving factors are there's not enough provider centers, workforce, etc., and the money to pay staff. It kind of increases in child care costs, if we want more money for staff, we have to make child care cost more. And the low staff and big turnover rates of staff are also causing an issue with not enough providers and workforce. Then, the long training time, background checks, are also impacting not enough provider centers or workforce.
 - Regional trends all across counties– all slots are filled there are not enough provider centers, workforce, and classrooms. Plus infant/toddler is a lot harder to get into.
- What recommendations do we have?
 - More infant/toddler care and daycare in general. We need more provider centers and classrooms. And we need help to keep an increased staff in Early Childcare Education.
- Tammy thanked everyone for coming and stated that we got a lot accomplished.

Follow-up/Next Steps: