



MEETING NOTES

Region II Action Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: 3/23/23 12-2 pm

Council Members present: Melissa Coleman, Lisa Flynn, Jenifer Bonawitt, Daphne Boley, Laura Shull, Jennifer Buchter, Cori Moore, Dr. Jeremy Larson, Tammy Helm, Linda Gamble

Council Members absent: Robin Hopper, Kiyla DeVoss, Amy Durdel

12:00 Welcome (10 min)

Notes:

- Tammy welcomed everyone and reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting.
- Tammy shared that she had a meeting with Jeff Andrews, President of The Business of Child Care, and he is currently working with the Arcola Community & Economic Development collaboration and Moultrie County Kids collaboration. He confirmed there are no additional formal collaborations within our region. He also shared with her information regarding the Arcola and Moultrie County collaborations. This information will be shared with the council via email.
- Tammy shared that on the 14th we had our first County Town Hall with Edgar County ECEC providers. Since then, there have been Town Halls for Douglas and Cumberland Counties. Tonight, will be the Coles County Town Hall. These are targeting Early Childhood Education providers, and it is showing that the concerns of providers are not isolated, they are region wide and possibly even statewide.
- Tammy shared that we've been busy attending Preschool Round Ups, with sometimes each of us being in different locations on the same date. We have been meeting as many families as we can, and it's been very productive for us. It's an event that we will continue to do in the future.
- We will have a Focus Group with the Hispanic population in Arcola on April 14th. We also will be doing some interviews and surveys. Kayli, FACE Specialist is leading that project.

12:10 Priority Populations (80 min)



Notes:

- Tammy explained that there are three main objectives for this meeting.
 - What supports are in place?
 - What does the data tell us about what our region might need in the future?
 - What data is missing or unavailable?
- Tammy shared what the criteria is for Priority Populations. Which include At Risk, Under-served, Measurable, Timely, and Distinctive. So, for the purpose of our scan these are the Priority Populations they would like to highlight.
 - Children of Teen parents
 - Children experiencing Homelessness
 - Children in families of poverty or deep poverty
 - Children/families with DCFS involvement
 - Children with disabilities
 - Children of migrant or seasonal workers
 - Children in families with low caregiver education attainment
 - Children in families that face barriers based on culture, race, and religion
 - Children of a parent or legal guardian with a disability
 - Children/families with refugee or asylum status
 - Children in families who face barriers due to immigration status
 - Children who are impacted by parental involvement in the criminal justice system

The council then went through each priority and tried to answer the objective questions. Tammy asked if anyone knew of more data or where to find the data that is missing to let her know so we can get it included in the scan.

1:30 Conclusion (5 min)

Notes:

- Tammy stated that she appreciated everyone contributing to the conversation and asked if there was anything that someone would like to share with her after reviewing all of this to please email her.
- Tammy shared that our next topic will be ECEC Programs. What types of programs we have available, and what supports are needed to improve the quality and quantity of our ECEC programs.
- ECEC Workforce will be a separate meeting.
- Tammy stated that our next meeting will be April 6th, 12-2 pm on Zoom and opened the floor for questions.



- Tammy thanked everyone for coming and stated that she will be following up with some of them individually to get more information.

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- Send Douglas & Moultrie info from Jeff Andrews to Action Council
- Continue to collect information regarding Priority Populations and report back to Action Council