



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 11 Action Council Meeting

**Location: Virtual**

**Date & Time: 3/9/23 12 pm – 1:22 pm**

Council Members present: Jenifer Bonawitt, Daphne Boley, Melissa Coleman, Dennis Pearson, Lisa Flynn, Cori Moore, Jennifer Buchter, Laura Shull, Amy Durdel

Council Members absent: Robbin Hopper, Kiyla DeVoss

Guest speakers: Tom Mulligan, Meg Steward, Jamie Schneider

#### **Noon: Welcome and Announcements (20 min)**

Notes:

- Tammy welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting.
- Tammy shared that we volunteered at the Haven on February 24, 2023. The team prepared and served lunch to the residents.
- Tammy shared that we had our first Town Hall meeting with Moultrie County and that it went really well. Town Halls are scheduled for each of the 7 counties within Region 11 to capture the voices of all providers, caretakers, and staff in the ECEC workforce.
- The team has attended Preschool Round Ups in Mattoon, Casey, Villa Grove, Sullivan, Stew-Stras, Okaw Valley, and Ashmore. We will continue to attend these events throughout the month of March and April.
- It was discovered that there is a collaboration in Moultrie County. Tammy will be contacting them to schedule a meeting to discuss what their project looks like.
- A brief conversation was had regarding how to determine if an entity is a formal or informal collaboration.
- As of today, there are 3 known collaborations within Region 11: Douglas County, Clark County, and Moultrie County.

#### **12:20: Guest Speaker, Tom Mulligan (25 min)**

Notes:

- Tammy introduced Tom Mulligan, Superintendent of Arcola CUSD #306, who will be speaking about the project in Arcola.



- He discussed that the collaboration is called Arcola Community Economic Development (ACED). They are an off shoot of the Chamber of Commerce, and they have done a lot of community needs assessments. One of the biggest things that always comes up is daycare. He explained that they really brought together all the partners that include the city, business leaders, licensed day care providers, some people that are running non-licensed day cares. They applied for and received a Collaboration Grant. They will be having a kickoff session on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and have Jeff Andrews in attendance who is going to help them form a very specific detailed action plan. They are trying to get everything ready and hope to leverage their Hispanic community and the diversity of Arcola to be able to get into the second round of funding.
- Tammy asked if anyone had any questions for Tom and thanked him for coming and talking about Arcola's project.
- Tammy then introduced Meg Steward and Jamie Schneider from Clark County.
- Meg spoke first, and she shared that she and Jamie have collaborated and are the facilitators for their community project. She said their project got kick started with a feasibility study done in 2021, and they were looking at doing it privately with talk of it being a non-profit. They started talking with the Mayor and Superintendent about the project and whose budget it would come out of because, in the study, there was a focus on daycare and preschool needs in the community. They then decided to create the separate non-profit and created a board for the Marshall Early Learning Center.
- Jamie shared their vision and how classrooms will look. She stated that they would like to have eight classrooms starting with infants, toddlers, two's and three's. She said there is need for birth to 2 so that parents can get back to work. They want to keep it education based, but they have several ways to expand and get the children the services they need be it speech, social, or counseling. They have no funding right now and are trying to raise the money all on their own. They do plan to try and apply for grants for funding but haven't seen any yet.
- Meg came back to say they are looking at government, private, and public funding, and they are tapping into a two-million-dollar USDA red line loan. They have already had companies come out and say that "yes, we want to support you".
- They asked if anyone had any questions, and Tammy asked if they are doing all of this by themselves or if they have any community stakeholders invested and helping with the planning and decision making?



- Meg stated that her family is the ones that did the feasibility study, and her father said to get a committee together and go execute a plan. She and Jamie started working together to get plan started.
- Then Jamie explained how she became involved in the project. She was a teacher and got that choice taken away from her due to living in a remote area with no family around and four young boys to take care of so she had to stay home.
- Tammy gave them some advice on what they could do working with Birth to Five Illinois and Illinois Action for Children to get their project moving forward. Tom Mulligan agreed with Tammy on where to go and what to do next.
- Tammy thanked them for coming on and talking about their project.

#### **12:45 Group Discussion (24 min)**

Notes:

- Tammy asked about the one in Moultrie County. If they were a collaboration.
- Group talked again about what collaborations are and how to become one.
- Tammy went through the other counties asking if anyone knew of any collaborations in them.
- Tammy stated that we're kind of stuck right now as to if we have any collaborations. We seem to have several informal ones. We have people doing the work. We just need to find them.

#### **1:09 Follow Up Questions & Next Meeting Reminders (5 min)**

Notes:

- Tammy said that the next meeting will be March 23<sup>rd</sup> from Noon – 2 on Zoom.
- The next meeting will be about priority populations, and she asked that if anyone had information on priority populations to please email it to her so she can have it to share for the next meeting.
- Tammy thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and having great speakers and conversations.

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- Follow up with the Moultrie County collaboration.
- Follow up with a possible Shelby County collaboration.