



MEETING NOTES

Region 11 Action Council Meeting

Location: Virtual

Date & Time: 4/20/23 Noon-2 pm

Council Members present: Jenifer Bonawitt, Daphne Boley, Cori More, Jennifer Buchter, Melissa Coleman, Dennis Pearson, Tammy Helm, Kayli Bontrager, Linda Gamble

Council Members absent: Robin Hopper, Amy Durdel, Laura Shull, Lisa Flynn, Kiyla DeVoss

12:00 Welcome (16 min)

Notes:

- Tammy reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. She also included how our Focus Group with the Hispanic population in Arcola went.
- Tammy shared announcements including that we have finished up roundups, attended Festival of the Young Child, met with the Tuscola Chamber and Economic Development, and with Progress for Paris.
- Tammy and Kayli will be attending Leadership Connections next week.
- Tammy went over the meeting objectives.

12:16 Review/Discussion – What higher education, high school, or training programs are available for early childhood educators? (5 min)

Notes:

- Tammy shared a list of training programs available for early childhood educators, and members shared others that they knew about in Region 11.

12:21 ECEC Workforce (19 min)

Notes:

- Kayli shared data from INCCRRA's research on what the workforce looks like in terms of data from the different positions held and the diversity in those positions throughout Region 11.
- Kayli shared an overview of all the different providers/teachers that we have in Region 11 and what kind of credentials they have.
- Tammy led the discussion on whether the workforce represents the communities they serve, and the consensus was that we do not have a lot of



diversity in our region, and the workforce accurately represents the communities that we serve.

12:40 Review/Discussion (20 min)

Notes:

- Why is it difficult to keep staff in ECEC?
 - Can't get to school to get the degree or credential due to work, weather, family life, etc.
 - Lack of support, transportation
 - Increase in more violent behaviors and staff not prepared to deal with them
 - Need more standard ways to train teachers
 - No early childhood special ed training or training for difficult behaviors

1:00 What is causing ECEC staff to stay/leave? (11 min)

Notes:

- To stay
 - Passion/love of work/kids
 - Commitment to children and families
 - Those who have a great support system from administrators, resources, parents, etc.
 - To make an impact on future generations
- To leave
 - Over regulation, paperwork, other demands outside of teaching
 - Lack of support/resources

1:11 What are the strengths/weaknesses/recommendations of ECEC workforce in Region 11? (8 min)

Notes:

- Strengths
 - Persistent & compassionate
 - Relationships & connections
- Weaknesses
 - Burnout
 - Using resources that are available
 - Using connections to help the whole region
- Recommendations



- Tammy stated that even though members have talked about recommendations throughout the discussion she would like for everyone to use the Google Doc embedded in the last message and write out recommendations that they have for the workforce.

1:19 Parting questions & thoughts (4 min)

Notes:

- Tammy shared what tribes are in our region, and she asked if anyone knows someone from one of the tribes to please let her know as she would like to set up a meeting with them.
- Tammy also requested council members to email her to let her know if they would like to continue to be on the Action Council for the next year. She also explained what the next steps might consist of.
- Tammy asked if anyone had any thoughts or questions.
- Tammy shared that the topic of the next meeting will be talking about the overall regional strengths/needs & recommendations that we plan to submit.
- Our next meeting will be 5/18/23 at the Mattoon Public Library in the basement from 5:30 to 7:30.

Follow-up/Next Steps: