



MEETING NOTES

Region 54 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 1:00 PM

Council Members present: Cynthia Smith, Kathy Vines, Melissa Hollingsworth, Michael Marron, Mia Harrier, and Niah Hamilton

Council Members absent: Chris Rice, Cindy Montgomery, Cynthia Smith, Elizabeth Cannon, Lisa Abdelghani, Lisa Langellier, Mary Surprenant, Odette Hyatt-Watson Tamara L Red, Tamera Forthenberry, and Tim Dudley

Review Sections of Regional Scan (30 minutes)

Notes: The Regional Scan focus sections were presented to the Council via PowerPoint. Sections of the Scan are focused on past Council meeting topics: Demographics, ECEC Workforce, Parents/Family/Caregivers, Slot Gap, Community Collaborations, and Priority Populations. This information was reviewed by Council members to determine whether the Regional Team captured all the important topics/information.

Decisions made: Council Members agreed that all the important topics and information have been captured.

Review Region's Strengths (20 minutes)

Notes: Council Members discussed Regions 54's strengths including:

- ECEC Programs
 - Publicly Funded Programs
 - Licensed Child Care
- National Guard Grant
- Habitat for Humanity
- Other available resources
 - iGrow
 - Women's Care Clinic
- Some places offer ECEC Workforce Initiatives
 - Educational/Monetary Incentives



Decisions made: Council Members advised to include Child Care Resource Services Salvation Army, Stepup Recovery, Survivor Resource Center, Care-A Van (Mobil Health Clinic dedicated to Vermilion County only), and Crosspoint.

Review Region's Needs (20 minutes)

Notes: Council Members Discussed Region 54's needs including:

- More providers to accept state pay / Eligibility guidelines to be adjusted
- More ECEC staff and quality/properly trained staff/ diversity of teachers that represent our community
- Providers offering 2nd and 3rd shift child care
- More child care spots for children and to fill them before placing a child on a waitlist
- More public transportation available in rural areas
- More therapy services to be offered/ More ECEC programs in rural areas

Decisions made: Council Members would like to add that there are recruitment efforts needed for all of the "need" topics.

Recommendations (10 minutes)

Next Steps: To prepare for the next meeting on Recommendations, a Google form will be sent out to Council Members asking what their recommendations are for each topic. This will not only prepare them for the next meeting but will also allow Council Members to input their voice and ideas into the Regional Scan. The forms ask to include their plan and what would be needed to carry out the said plan.