



MEETING NOTES

Region 30 Action Council Virtual Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, April 6, 2023, 5:30p—7:15p

Council Members present : Tangela Oliver, Tracie Griffith, M Stalls, Denise Henry, Sheridan Johnson, Lindsay Baskin, Patty Davis, Keeshia Carr, Lashauna Cornelius, Van Ikner, Sheryl Houston, Lindsey Baskin, Cindy Rice, NaTasha Hubbard, and Colleen McLaughlin

Council Members Absent : Debbie Bruns, Sandy Snowden, Brittany Matthews, Cheryl Graff, Dona Middleton, and Kathy Swafford

5:30pm Welcome, Introductions, and review of Community Agreements (10 minutes)

Notes: Zena welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. Discussed Regional Scan to make sure everyone has received it and has had a chance to review it. Some Members are still reviewing it, and some Members had questions about the formatting. Zena mentioned that even though a few sections are locked, we are still able to submit edits. Zena to resend the most updated Regional Scan document to all Action Council Members for further review specifically their names, titles, and positions.

5:40pm Team Building (20 minutes)

Presenter: Linda Poindexter

Notes: Linda mentioned with the Spring season being upon us and bringing in new endeavors, what is something that you/your family plans to do this season? Everyone shared their ideas, plans, and goals.

6:00pm Consensus on Strengths/Prioritizing Needs (60 minutes)

Presenter: Zena Madison

Notes: Zena shared her screen to present a PowerPoint presentation. Zena mentioned that she will be sharing strengths and weaknesses shared from the Family Council that Linda has compiled. Zena started the presentation by sharing that the most common concerns of our families in Region 30 are affordability, quality, and accessibility. What can we do locally to help parents? State funding won't fix everything. As a community, we have the power to change our communities. Zena presented what parents have expressed as Region "needs" and asked everyone to read/review and provide feedback/comments. One Council Member asked what "slot gap/waiting lists" meant



listed as needs. Zena explained that it means having enough openings for all children in the Region. Waiting lists as in parents aren't provided other alternatives when waiting lists are long. They are just turned down. One Council Member also mentioned that they would need to contact CCR&R so they can be assisted in finding child care. Then, it was asked...how well people know about CCR&R? One Council Member who works there mentioned that they are exploring ideas on how to market/promote their services to bring more awareness. Zena mentioned the Southern Illinois Coalition for Children & Families working to have a platform to share resources with parents as well as they have received a grant to promote information in our Region via flyers being delivered by a messenger.

The need for screenings was discussed. A Council Member mentioned that there are several screening events happening in the area and she shared the flyers via Facebook. Another Council Member mentioned Southern Illinois Connections also offering screenings. They may have a waitlist due to a lack of providers. Another Council Member mentioned that the Southern Illinois Coalition with Children & Families has partnered with CCR&R to provide free "ages & stages" screening via a link ([ASQ Online](#)) and then the parent is contacted with the results.

Another Council Member mentioned "Mental Health Consultants" being available to support teachers, etc. However, not many entities/people know that they exist.

A Council Member mentioned a grant available for people to apply that provides coverage for tuition when enrolled in "Early Childhood Mental Health Education." Link provided: https://www.erikson.edu/blog/strengthening-support-for-infant-and-early-childhood-mental-health/?fbclid=IwAR0pmkUVnuOMXhNA89II25-zTbuc37XaM9iA9dLRxlqaLZ_jPJWcfBq3FYw

A Council Member mentioned that we need to **"give information to people when and where they need it ."**

It was also mentioned that our Region needs a resource "hub" where anyone can "go" and retrieve information needed. Zena mentioned that we have been working on always sharing resources in our monthly Newsletter. Zena proceeded to show the "strengths" from our Region gathered from our Family Council. Asked for comments about these.



Council Member mentioned that STARNET offers parent support groups for parents with special needs child(ren).

A Council Member mentioned that “We are each other’s greatest strengths.”

There are no parent/caregiver support groups known in our Region outside of local church groups.

A Council Member mentioned that an “**Advisory Committee with Collective Impact** ” could be created in our Region to work on these needs.

A Council Member shared a class her son has in middle school, **WINN (What I Need Now)** where he gets help with whatever the need is for him. If he needs help with Math, he can speak to the Math teacher or if he needs to talk to someone, he can do that, it creates a space for children to get what they need that day or week. She said that would be something that can be implemented in the ECEC world. Providing parents and caregivers with what they need at any time.

A Council Member mentioned that a strength to be added should also be our Region’s willingness to work together, great community spirit, and diversity. No other comments on strengths were mentioned.

Prioritized Needs:

- Increase slots to lower such a great slot gap.
- Family/life education
- Readily available home-visiting services
- Assist in promoting Education Field to help with understaffing.

Council Member asked: “**Are we taking care of our kids in the Region as we should?**”

7:00pm Next Meeting Agenda Priority Recommendations (15 mins)

Notes: Zena mentioned that in our next meeting, we are going to discuss recommendations for our Region. Will be inviting the Family Council to also join and will have a celebration/gathering in person at Anna Heights Baptist Church. Save the Date flyer to be emailed.



7:15pm Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting

Date: May 4, 2023

Time: 5:30pm—7:30pm

Location: In-person/Anna Heights Baptist Church