



MEETING NOTES

Draft Region 19 Action Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: January 25, 2023, 4:00pm to 6:00pm

4:00pm: Welcome & Updates (8 minutes)

Notes:

- We are still in the process of organizing focus groups and interviews. If anyone knows of someone that might be interested in participating or knows of specific groups that we should reach out to please contact Valerie.
 - Consent forms are available online:
<https://www.birthtofiveil.com/consent>
- Update on Planning grant: Villa Park was one of the Planning Grant Recipients. Congratulations!
 - <https://www.birthtofiveil.com/planning>

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:08pm: DuPage Early Childhood Collaboration and All Our Kids Network Presentation (20 minutes)

Notes:

- Following our conversations from our last Action Council meeting, Maria Cuevas, presented on All our Kids (AOK) and DuPage Early Childhood Collaboration (DECC)
 - <https://aoknetworks.org/>
 - <https://www.dupagedecc.org/>

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:28pm: DECC/AOK Collaboration Discussion (11 minutes)

Notes:

- Circling back to our last Action Council meeting, it was discussed that in DuPage County there is still a need for buy-in from the school districts to work together with small collaborations.
- How can school districts become associated with Integrated Referral & Intake System (IRIS)?



- There is an onboarding process and training where the organization gets set up with IRIS.
- Reach out to Maria Cuevas if this is something an organization is interested in.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:39pm: Priority Populations Introduction (10 minutes)

Notes:

- The understanding that the conversation of Priority Population is so important.
 - Reasoning why we are having Focus Groups and Interviews to try to capture as much as possible.
- Explanation of the criteria used to determine a Priority Population.
 - Five different criteria
- 12 different Priority Populations categories
- Overview of the Illinois Risk and Reach Report for early childhood.
 - DuPage County scored low to moderate or low for most of the categories, except in the category of housing cost which we scored high in.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:49pm: Priority Populations Breakout Groups (16 minutes)

Notes:

- Action Council members were split into groups to discuss Priority populations. In each breakout room, they discussed the barriers, the root causes, the current response to barriers, and why they have not been resolved.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

5:05pm: Priority Populations Group Discussion (55 minutes)

Notes:

- Children experiencing homelessness and children in families in poverty or deep poverty.
 - Barriers to ECEC services include access to services, and support for single moms including affordable housing. Many of these causes are due to inadequate wages and structural economic issues.



- Current response to these barriers revolves around the same agencies providing the same resources with limited funding and spaces. One of the reasons why these barriers are not resolved yet is due to the cost of housing being high and wages low. Many times the state doesn't recognize DuPage as having a need when it comes to grant opportunities.
- Children with disabilities and children of a parent or legal guardian with a disability
 - Barriers to ECEC services include a lack of placement options, and parents are not supported or guided. The root cause falls into the special education system and the history of being siloed. Old systems are hard to disrupt which is why these barriers have not been resolved.
- Children of migrant or seasonal workers; children/families with refugee or asylum status and children in families who face barriers due to immigration status.
 - Barriers to ECEC services include eligibility services and language barriers. Including understanding the services available and the registration process. Root causes include misconceptions shared within the community. Forms and registration processes are language heavy, and many are now presented only using technology.
 - Current responses to these barriers include leveraging staffing to meet the needs of families and the use of trusted community-based staff. These barriers have not been resolved due to funds not being available and many of these barriers are systematically embedded.
- Children of teen parents and children in families with low caregiver education attainment
 - Barriers to ECEC services and root causes identified are having two different identities at the same time that do not overlap (being a mom and a student). Schools are not always open to partnerships with other organizations and the lack of knowledge regarding high-quality resources.
 - Current response to these barriers includes school districts having child care in their school for teen parents. Robust home visiting programs along with many social services available. Many of these barriers have not been resolved due to a lack of awareness within many communities. Lack of sufficient services in DuPage for teen parents to continue their education beyond high school.



- Children/families with DFCS involvement and children incarcerated parents in the justice system.
 - Barriers to ECEC services include incarcerated families do not have great-paying jobs. When it comes to renting there is a background check needed and there are many biases attached to these priority groups. Root causes of these barriers include no connection with services, children being relocated from their homes, and referrals being placed after children are removed not when the help is needed.
 - Current responses to these barriers are parent workshops, and donations for transportation support. These barriers have not been resolved due to low funds, lack of partnerships in the community, and lack of training and education.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:00pm: Next Steps (5 minutes)

Notes:

- Meeting notes, agenda, and next meeting topic will be sent to all Action Council members.
- Next meeting: Wednesday, February 10, 2023 from 11:00am to 1:00pm

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A