



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 19 Action Council Meeting

**Location: Zoom**

**Date & Time: February 22, 2023, 4:00 to 6:00 pm**

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

Notes:

- Brief overview of Governor Pritzker's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.
- Birth to Five State Team and Regional Managers are currently in Springfield, IL.
  - They are connecting with State Legislators and talking about our Regional Scans and work.
  - Regional Scans are expected to be out by June 2023.
- Regions 19 plan for the Week of the Young Child and Early Childhood Advocacy week.
  - Hoping to get letters from our Family Council members and make packets to distribute to our legislators in DuPage County.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **4:08 pm: ECEC Landscape: Bridging the Gap Between 2022 and 2032 (15 minutes)**

Notes:

- Overview of the different programs operating in Illinois.
- Funding stream diagram
  - These fundings come from a wide variety of places.
- Acknowledgment that system-level issues do exist.
  - This will be represented on our Regional Scan.
- The need and efforts to align all requirements.
- Programs looking into closing their programs earlier in the day, due to a shortage of staffing/licensing.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **4:23pm: Overview of Child Care Assistance Program (32 minutes)**

Notes:



- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) overview presented by Jessica Ballard from Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R).
  - Services Lake, Kane, and DuPage Counties.
- CCAP helps pay for childcare expenses for income-eligible families who work or go to approved schools or training.
- Qualification for CCAP
  - Self-employment
  - Work from home employment
  - Cash paid employment
- July 2022 update
  - Initial Activity Search (IAS)
  - ECE Worker- \$1 Copay
  - Income guidelines increase

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- Questions regarding CCAP and presentation reach out to Jessica Ballard, [Jessica.ballard@ywcachicago.org](mailto:Jessica.ballard@ywcachicago.org)

#### **4:55 pm: ECEC Landscape Discussion (60 minutes)**

Notes:

- CCAP
  - Strengths
    - Changes made that eliminate some barriers.
    - Reasonable copay.
    - Opportunity for parents to continue their education.
    - Study time for students in school.
  - Challenges
    - Licensing requirements to align with all the systems.
    - Application process.
    - Getting child care providers to agree to be CCAP providers.
    - As a provider it's not always easy, consistent, or reliable to get paid.
- DCFS ECE Program Licensing
  - Strengths
    - Educare; example of funding streams
  - Challenges
    - Funding streams aren't able to provide for all needed staff.
    - Crosswalk needed for all systems.



- Receiving your license was taking a long time due to DCFS being short staff.
- Covid impacted getting licensing.
  - DCFS took priority in child care centers opening under an emergency license.
- Publicly Funded Programs
  - Strengths
    - Provides affordable/ free preschool.
    - Follow requirements for high quality early childhood programs.
    - Direct connection to school districts.
    - Positive parent, education and professional development.
  - Challenges
    - Sometimes there is no partnership with community child care programs to provide collaborative support for families.
    - Not enough spots
      - Inconsistent from one district to another
- Services for Early Intervention/ Medically Complex
  - Strengths
    - Reaches children early.
    - Better at reflecting language differences in services (proving interpreters).
    - Support when transitioning children into schools.
  - Challenges
    - Fear of being labeled.
  - Movement being done with terms that are outdated.
    - <https://www.cdrnys.org/blog/disability-dialogue/the-disability-dialogue-4-disability-euphemisms-that-need-to-bite-the-dust/>
    - <https://www.damemagazine.com/2019/01/15/i-prefer-that-you-say-im-disabled/>
  - There are still heavy misconceptions regarding in-home services calling DCFS on families.
    - Still a big mistrust.
    - Scared of EI because of the thought of failing as a mother.
- Services for Bilingual Families
  - Strengths
    - More funding being allocated for translators.
    - Writing materials being translated into multiple languages.



- BPAC parent groups.
- Challenges
  - Inconsistent support.
  - Sometimes the service is just not available.
  - Not enough professional development for staff to support ELL students and families.
  - Finding reliable interpretation.
    - Interpreters that family trust.
- School laws regarding translation.
- The need for training with interpreters and staff so that trust is built with all parties.
- Additional comments
  - The need to expand home visiting to 3-5 years.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

### **5:55 pm: Next Steps (5 minutes)**

Notes:

- Next Meeting: Early Childhood Workforce on Friday, March 10, 2023 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
  - Discussion will be around strengths and challenges but also solutions and recommendations.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A