



MEETING NOTES

Region 44 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 2/9/2023, 11am-1pm

Council Members present: Jamee Potash, Donna Emmons, Elyse Sereyka, Susan Beckman

Council Members absent: Diana Hartmann, Michele Holden, Jen Nowick, Kim Lamz, Lori Lanphier

11:00 Welcome & Review of Community Expectations (10 minutes)

Notes: Community Expectations were read to the group, and all agreed. No additional information needed at this time.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

11:10 Introductions & Ice Breaker (5 minutes)

Notes: Council introduced themselves and shared their favorite vacation spot. Shavon announced we have hired a new manager that will begin towards the end of the month.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

11:15 ECEC Program (30 minutes)

Notes: Council was shown the various definitions for types of ECEC programs in the region.

1. Licensed Exempt home care
2. Licensed home care
3. Licensed center based care
4. Public and private part-day preschool
5. Head Start
6. Preschool for All

Reviewed Workforce Data from 2021, IECAM Early Care & Education Data on the different programs and the numbers from 2021. Concerns were made about the numbers being low compared to updated numbers. Council members discussed "real time" numbers are available and can be accessed.



Comments from the council included the following:

1. We have the availability, but we don't have the staff to do it.
2. There is a waitlist for most daycare centers, but it's not space, it's a staff issue.
3. We are continuingly seeing staff at the centers in programs to get degrees leave and go to the school districts after degree is earned. The focus needs to be on how to keep existing people and attract new people.
4. Prevention Initiative programs are not full in this county. Not necessarily a staffing issue, but knowledge of the program itself in the county is unknown.
5. Reviewed data available on IECAM for Early Intervention. We must think about how the data is collected. Looked at 2020 numbers for IEPs in the county.
6. The consensus was that there are a lot of publicly funded ECEC programs in the county, but the cost needs to stay low. Also discussed the idea of Park District Preschool programs.
7. CCAP programs numbers were viewed, and council agreed all the numbers are a bit old so new information is welcome and will be used in Regional Scan. There are families who qualify for CCAP not being served due to staffing.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

11:55 Break

12:00 Questions to consider (40 minutes)

1. What is the region's current early childhood care and education (ECEC) landscape?
2. What insights about the ECEC landscape stand out?
3. Are there any local or regional programs or funding sources supporting ECEC services?
4. What data is missing or would be helpful to have in this discussion?
5. How can we better capture information about family care and program enrollment numbers?
6. Whose voices haven't been heard in the data discussion? Who needs to be recruited for focus groups/interviews?
7. What does the data tell us about what our region might need in the future?

Notes: All comments were added to the community Jamboard

Decisions: N/A



Next Steps: N/A

12:40 Check-In and Share-Out (10 minutes)

Notes: Caregiver Connections Conference will be held on 2/25/23 from 8:30am-4:00pm at First Church in Crystal Lake. There will be speakers on various topics as well as a resource fair.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: Please share this information within your networks.

Next Meeting: 2/23/2023, 11am-1pm, Virtual