



MEETING NOTES

Region 44 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 3/9/2023, 11am-1pm

Council Members present: Elyse Sereyka, Susan Beckman, Jennifer Nowicki, Donna Emmons

Council Members absent: Diana Hartmann, Michele Holden, Lori Lanphier, Jamee Potash, Kim Lamz

11:00 Welcome & Review of Community Expectations/ECEC Workforce (15 minutes)

Notes: Reviewed what was discussed last meeting about workforce data. Reviewed community expectations on a shared screen and all agreed.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

11:15 Introductions & Ice Breaker (15 minutes)

Notes: New Regional Council Manager introduced herself and her background. The rest of the council introduced themselves and stated their favorite smell for an ice breaker activity.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

11:30 Parents, Caregivers and Families (30 minutes)

Notes: A council member shared her story about a child care center experience and how difficult it was due to price, quality, and safety standards. She recommended the DCFS Sunshine website as a reference for anyone looking for a center. A comment was made that they wish the website was more user friendly. It's very complex and difficult to navigate for someone that does not know the system. Another council member shared her experience of the limitations within her community for child care. Another council member shared her experience of trying to work full time and find child care that was reasonably priced and that had a timeframe that coincided with her work schedule. She shared how stressful it is to find care especially during the summer months. Another council member shared she worked with people experiencing homelessness and that those people have a difficult time affording their portion even



after state help has been given, or the difficulty with transportation. Another council member talked about grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and the limited programs to support them during retirement.

Decisions: The council decided to browse the DCFS Sunshine website to show the complexity of the site and trying to navigate it. Also to look at a variety of centers and better understand any incidences occurring at facilities.

Next Steps: N/A

12:00 Break

12:10 Parents, Caregivers and Families Questions to Consider; (30 minutes)

1. What are parent experiences with accessing early childhood care and education in the region?
2. Whose voices are still missing? How can those be captured in the future?
3. Do current services/supports seem sufficient for how the community is growing/changing?

Notes: All comments were added to the community Jamboard.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: FACE staff will email link to google folder to all the council members.

12:30 Check-In and Share-Out (5 minutes)

Notes:

1. Options & Advocacy is planning a family picnic this year for Friday, May 19th. Time and location are TBD.
2. College of Lake County has a flyer available for a spring symposium for interested students. Asking council to share information.
3. We have more dates for Birth to Five Illinois; Region 44 focus group/interviews. If you know anyone interested, please forward our information.
4. A link for Birth to Five Illinois surveys will be emailed to all council members.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Next Meeting: 3/23/2023, 11am-1pm, Virtual