



MEETING NOTES

Region 19 Action Council Meeting

Location: Office/Zoom

Date & Time: April 14, 2023, 11:00am to 1:00pm

11:00am: Welcome & Updates (5 minutes)

Notes:

- Our Regional Scan has officially been renamed Needs Assessment by our Birth to Five Illinois State Team.
- This is our second to last formal meeting before our Needs Assessments is published.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

11:05am: Birth to Five Illinois Tentative Timeline (15 minutes)

Notes:

- Review of Tentative Timeline for May-September.
- In May Region 19 will be sharing a completed draft of the Needs Assessment with all Action Council Members.
- In June Council interest forms reopen. If Action Council members feel this is a good time to transition, please reach out to Valerie.
- During the summer time we will be sharing and decimating our findings with everyone in DuPage County including stakeholders, individuals outside of ECEC, legislators, etc.
- Addendums will be available to do to our Needs Assessment.
- Action Council meetings will be held once a month during the summer months.
- In September we will relaunch our Councils, and review recommendations with a focus on planning and implementation.
- We are still waiting on the State to finalize our deliverables. We currently know what our work will be, but we are waiting for more details.
- Birth to Five Illinois will help facilitate the planning and implementation conversation within the community.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

11:20am: Regional Strengths and Needs (90 minutes)



Notes:

- Review of Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals.
- Brief overview of Action Council and Family Council meetings.
- Overview of Family Council demographics.
- Conversations regarding identifying system wide issues vs. income related issues.
- Action Council members identified the strengths and needs of each topic of conversation.
 - Demographics/ Priority Population
 - Strengths
 - Resources available
 - Interest in discussing and engaging towards solutions
 - Needs
 - More funding for language resources and training for interpreters
 - Access to resources
 - Public transportation
 - More child care centers accepting CCAP
 - CCAP rates closer to market rate.
 - ECEC Landscape
 - Strengths
 - Many early childhood collaborations
 - High-quality EC programs with different funding streams
 - Trust between family and community partners/ collaborations
 - Needs
 - Workforce
 - Respect and value for the profession
 - Affordable full day child care
 - Increase support for children with disabilities and families
 - Community Collaborations
 - Strengths
 - Established partnerships
 - Shared community vision and mission for ECEC
 - Success in obtaining increased funding for ECEC services
 - Needs
 - School district support for all collaborations



- Shared common messaging on the benefits of ECEC
- Consistent funding
- Communication with residents and stakeholders on the work and the importance and impact it holds
- Slot Gap
 - Strengths
 - Data
 - Home visiting has increased
 - Needs
 - Better understanding of slot gap, and qualification criteria for programs
 - Increase home visiting and home-based services to children aged 3-5
 - Organized process for increasing and allocating the number of available seats in ECEC programs
 - Address the need for families that fall in an income gap
- Workforce
 - Strengths
 - Dedication from ECE professionals
 - Needs
 - Higher pay and benefits
 - Value and respect for the profession
 - Additional support such as ongoing infant mental health support and reflective supervision
- Parent/Caregiver Engagement
 - Strengths
 - Opportunities available at school age level
 - The need for engagement has been supported throughout the year with additional grant dollars and professional development.
 - Needs
 - Finding out what modifications are needed in the programs.
 - Better communication with families- clear, simple, and concrete
 - Make engagement opportunities accessible



- Help families understand that their input, feedback, and collaboration are wanted.
 - Additional Strengths and Needs can be found in the meetings Jamboard located in our Google folder.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

12:50pm: Next Steps (10 minutes)

Notes: N/A

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- Next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 26th from 4:00 to 6:00pm.
 - Topic: Recommendations
 - Hybrid meeting