



MEETING NOTES

Region 44 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 4/6/2023, 11am-1pm

Council Members present: Elyse Sereyka, Donna Emmons, & Kim Lamz, Jamee Potash, Jennifer Nowicki

Council Members absent: Diana Hartmann, Susan Beckman

11:00 Welcome and Review Last Meeting (15 minutes)

Notes: Council reviewed local collaborations for our Region. The council agreed on needing a HUB for resources. The council reviewed local Early Childhood Education programs/services in our Region and data relating to those. The council had a good discussion on Preventative Initiative programs and their eligibility.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

11:15 Introductions & Ice Breaker (15 minutes)

Notes: Council members shared their place of work, title and what advice they would give to a brand-new parent. The Regional Council Manager recapped ideas brought up at the last meeting pertaining to landscape of Early Childhood Education and Care programs and the diversity of the workforce.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

11:30 Recap of Workforce (30 minutes)

Notes: The council reviewed the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) workforce and the diversity within the workforce. There was great discussion about data and the preconceived notions on ECEC jobs. The council also talked about qualifications for ECEC jobs and getting the word out on importance of education within staff working at ECEC programs. Regional Council Manager shared a pie chart showing amount of diversity in our Region for staff at ECE programs.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

12:00 Break



12:10 Recap Questions to Consider (30 minutes)

Notes: The council discussed the below questions and added all comments to the community Jamboard. The council also had suggestions from the recap of last meeting and added those responses to Jamboard.

1. Topic: Initiatives that exist within the Region. Anything missing to add? Are we including entire ECEC Workforce?
2. Topic: Training, certifications, career development, and higher education opportunities for ECEC workforce. Anything to add? Again, we are including the entire ECEC Workforce?
3. Topic: Family, parent, caregiver experiences with access to ECEC in the Region. Is there anything else you have seen/heard from families that should be added?

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

12:40 Check-In and Share-Out (5 minutes)

Notes: The following information was shared by council members.

1. College of Lake County is having a symposium hosted by YWCA, "Putting Health into Action." They will have a keynote speaker, Frank Kos and breakout sessions. This is an in-person event. The target audience is child care providers. A flyer will be emailed to all council members.
2. DCFS representatives will be available for an informational forum at the end of May at the College of Lake County.
3. College of Lake County is hosting an open house on May 15, 2023.
4. Options & Advocacy for McHenry County is hosting a Caregiver Connections group on April 12, 2023. There will be a performance from the Strikers.
5. Options & Advocacy for McHenry County is hosting a community picnic for providers/services in McHenry County on Friday, May 19, 2023. This event will be held at Woods Creek Park in Crystal Lake, IL. Busy Brains will be in attendance.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Next Meeting: 4/20/2023, 11am-1pm, Virtual