



MEETING NOTES

Region 40 Action Council Meeting

Location: 500 N. Main St., Carrollton, IL 62016

Date & Time: March 14, 2023, 6:30pm

Council Members present: Cindy Rice, Jennifer Lubrant, Stephanie Emery, Marcia Schulte, Marla Willard

Council Members Absent: Amber Nash, Kelsey Arnold, Amanda Goben, Molly Peters, Sarah Schmidt, Kristine Stanley, Amy Hess, Laura Sams, Regina Lindsey, Lisa Goode, Jackie Vandoren

6:30 pm: Welcome and Review (10 minutes)

Notes: Parents, Families, and Caregivers, Budget Proposal

Decisions made: Waiting on Governor's office on the Budget Proposal to be voted on and ratified.

Next Steps: What are its role as an Action Council and the dissemination process for the Regional Scan?

6:40 pm: Regional Scan Update (15 minutes)

Notes: What does Region 40 has for the Regional Scan currently?

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Keppen Clanton, Regional Manager will email this information.

6:55 pm: Parents, Caregivers, and Families (35 minutes)

Notes: Look at what we do have, and what positive things are in our Region. Look at focus group questions, and what is something that is parallel for each county. Why and what can we do differently?

Decisions made: Transportation, Childcare, Times available for working families, Cost of child care, and mental health.

Next Steps: What are some trends that you feel are not listed?

- **Transportation** – Getting bus drivers, lack of money for bus routes, getting credentials for drivers, and paying for the drivers while completing CDL (invest into your employees. Each region differs in the use of public transportation with School Districts for ECEC. Daycare providers not having transportation for preschool-age children while their parent is working. A child may be on a bus for

more than an hour in rural areas just to get from preschool to daycare or the other way around.

- **Families and Mental Health** – It's a huge issue in our area for kids, and or a whole family in crisis. Locust Street being in Macoupin County will service our areas if they have no reliable transportation if services are more than an hour or an hour and a half away for a worker to get to the school sometimes longer to get any kind of services. If you do not have reliable transportation to get to service for mental health then you are unable to receive services. Often a family in crisis is their homeostasis that is where they live, or they will create the crisis, and they are most comfortable there. Support groups need to be added along with mental health groups in all areas of our Region. Grandparents need to know their rights legally when must take over care of a grandchild, maybe from DCFS or an attorney. Availability for mental health services is primary in the day and families may not have the ability to take off work to go during the day.
- **Young Parents that are going to College** – Their primary daycare providers are family members/or moms because they will keep the child if the child is sick some students had to even bring their child to a college class with them or miss the class.
- **Child care and time of day** – Many parents work shift work, and they need a provider that has evening, weekend, or overnight care. Families need a strong support system. If you are limiting your sleep, it affects your mental health it will have an impact on family dynamics.
- **Cost of daycare** – The cost of child care may take a parent's complete paycheck to pay for child care. Will families start staying at home and not working, because of the cost of daycare?

Decisions made: Focus groups are needed in our area parents going to college is a population we need to address. How many single parents birth that are in our Region, and that their college education along with child care can be subsidized? Families with children can get licensed to stay at home and make an income so they can be home with their child or children.

Next step: N/A

7:30 pm: Share one thing that surprised you and/or you feel like you need to share after speaking with someone this week and if they could change one thing with ECEC what would it be? (30 minutes)


Notes: Child care for one of their families is amazing they live in Springfield, and they wish all families had access to this type of care, DCFS linked them to that child care service. Several students have expressed they would like daycare at the college. Families want full-day preschool rather than half-day because of transportation from preschool to home/daycare. Daycare at the schools for teachers and students that need it. Not transitions kids from room to room in Daycare, because that is a DCFS rule. Would like the ratio for after-school programs to be different because several grade

levels are in one room. Families wish there was fewer rules that the providers must think about all the time, it seems that rule seems to take over and loses the child's development. Parent activities in special education classes get to do the activities that other classes get to do.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Follow-up/Next Steps: Set up a focus group with parents in college, Next Action Council Meeting will be on March 28, 2023.

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If you need a page 3. The notes shouldn't be longer than 3 pages. If they are, please contact Jes at jscheinflug@birthtofiveil.com