



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 35 Action Council Meeting

Location: Ottawa, IL

Date & Time: 2/09/23, 1:00pm-1:57pm

Council Members present: Denise Garthe, Sara Markey, Kira Pfeffinger, Cecily Fleming

Council Members absent: Rich Faivre, Derek Kilmartin, Melissa Mital, Lynn Sheedy, Jackie Blackburn

#### **1:00pm Welcome & Introduction (3min)**

Notes:

All in attendance approved.

#### **1:03pm Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programs (8min)**

Notes:

- A brief explanation of PowerPoint leading to group discussion.

#### **1:11pm What is it like in 2033? (22min)**

Notes:

Discussion of possible future changes in region 35.

- Wages will reflect the value of educators.
- More suitable teaching staff.
- Improved morale among providers.
- Classrooms and children will be ready to learn when entering kindergarten.
- Parents will have a broader spectrum of child care providers to choose from.
- Readily available resources for families.
- A variety of centers or child care providers rather than simply taking whatever center has an opening.



### **1:33pm Current Support Region 35 (14min)**

Notes:

What do we currently have to support our vision?

- The state has shown a small interest in upskilling the current workforce through the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) scholarship which provides encouragement.
- Birth to Five Illinois being formed and showing an interest in early literacy for children before kindergarten.
- Physically being part of a grant issued within LaSalle County has brought new hope to educators.

### **1:47pm Barriers (13min)**

Notes:

What barriers do we currently have that are keeping us from reaching our vision?

- Livable wages for teaching staff.
- Proper education for teaching staff.
- Waiting lists for child care.
- Lack of transportation.
- Limited options for providers.
- Parents should have easy access to parenting courses.
- Resources are not easily accessible.
- Standards for care are not there.
- Lack of collaborations.

### **2:00pm Wrap up and adjournment**

- Continued outreach for Marshall and Putnam counties.
- Offered Council the opportunity to assist with referrals.