

## NOTES

### **Region 32 Action Council Meeting**

**Location: Virtual Only**

**Date & Time: March 23, 2023, 9:00-11:00 am**

**Members Present:** Rhonda Pence, Cindy Luzeniecki, Sheree Sykes, Newcomb Mowrer, Lovice Brinkman, Chrissy Nojd, Rosemary Pistorius, Mary Self, Cindi Schimmelpfennig, Rhonda Showers, Rebecca Graham

**Members Absent:** Erin Goldenstein, Carolyn Short, Theodis Pace, Jim Duggan, Christine Johnston, Amanda Parks, Pamela Powell, Marquita Cox, Rita Armstrong, Rebecca Kroiss, Holly Knupp, Amanda Chorak

**9:00: Welcome, Permission to Record**

- Liz welcomed Action Council members and permission to record was granted.

**9:02: Community Agreements and Meeting Norms**

- Liz reviewed the Community Norms and the Google Folder for Action Council with all meeting documents.
- Regional Scan timeline was reviewed with upcoming dates.

**9:04: Review ECEC Programs and Summarize Findings**

- The Early Childhood Education and Care Programs were reviewed from the previous meeting.
  - Data was shared on Child Care Assistance Program Usage by Family and Provider Location
    - The council discussed the barriers in staffing numbers if there were a requirement for certain levels of education and certifications in ECEC, EI, etc. Also, how the income is low compared to the cost of education.
    - A member brought attention to hearing a new requirement for In Home Day Care Providers to have a certain level of education to be licensed.
  - Data was shared on the Number of Providers Accepting Child Care Assistance Program Payment.
  - Data was shared on the Number of Children Receiving Early Intervention and Children with IEPs.
  - Data was shared on Sites and Capacity by Publicly Funded Program Type and Number of Sites and Capacity by Child Care Type.

- Data was shared on the Number of Sites / Slots for both Counties.
  - Gap in Kankakee Counties
  - Waiting list in Bourbonnais but not in certain areas, why?
    - Space, Transportation, Hours of Operation (1/2 day, Full Day, Overnight, Shift Workers)
- Data was shared with Child Care Centers & Migrant Head Start, and CCAP members.
- Liz asked the Action Council what stands out.
  - Lack of Home Visiting and EI Services
    - A member noted that CCRS started a home visiting service that is now servicing Iroquois County for mental health.
    - Birth to two years not represented in Home Visiting.
    - A member stated, “Parents seem to place their babies in home day care rather than a child care center.”
  - Lack of connection from birth to three
    - “Are the needs of parents and caregivers being met?”
    - “Pediatricians see these families monthly and it would be a beautiful place for moms to get the information.”
    - How can we bring awareness and this discussion to the community level? Liz charged the Council with sharing these concerns.
- Liz asked for Recommendations in ECEC Programs:
  - Well checks have a liaison person to connect with families at the health care offices / public health.
  - “Meet the parents where they are.” (Libraries, grocery stores...)
  - A common list of Resources/Classes offered.
  - Doctors share accurate information with parents.
  - Home Visiting nurses/professionals (advocate) for new mothers after delivery in their homes.
  - Connect with all hospitals and public health to share.

9:35:

**Regional Scan: Workforce**

- Liz shared data from Gateways and that is not to be shared outside of this meeting.
- Liz defined for the discussion:

- Licensed Center Teaching Staff- includes Teachers, Assistant Teachers, Teacher Aides, Substitute/Floater, School-Age Workers, and School-Age Assistants.
  - Licensed FCC Providers include just the Owner/Provider for the Family Child Care and it does not include any of the Assistants.
- Liz shared data on the Diversity of Licensed Center Teaching Staff, and Diversity of Family Child Care Providers.
  - Council members made note of the lack of male and bilingual staff in our area.
- Liz shared data on the Education of Licensed Center Teaching Staff and Education of Family Child Care Providers.
  - A council member suggested looking at this data again in the future and following the ECACE Scholarship recipients and that it should increase the highest level of education.
  - Action council members agreed that the language of Child Care needs to change to make it more professional (ex. Educational Formation Teacher, Child Development Teacher).
  - “Would we want unqualified people to take care of our prized possessions?”
    - “When we hire electricians, we make sure they are licensed and certified. Why wouldn’t we want the same for care with our youngest?”
  - A suggestion was made to make an accessible curriculum for Early Childhood Development.
- Liz asked the Council for recommendations:
  - Continued funding and sustainability in ECEC.
  - Scholarship continued throughout education until completion for ECACE funds.

**10:26: Regional Scan Update**

- Liz reviewed the draft sections of the Regional Scan with the Action Council for approval.

**11:00: Dissemination Plan and Brainstorming**

- Liz asked Council to think of how they can share and help the Birth to Five Illinois: Region 32 team in sharing the completed Regional Scan.

**11:04: Adjourn**

<b>Next Meetings:</b>	April 6, 2023 9:00-11:00am KCC NEC & Virtual	April 20, 2023 9:00-11:00am *Virtual Only
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