

AGENDA

Region 32 Action Council Meeting

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Date & Time: February 24, 2023, 9:00-11:00 am

Members Present: Rhoda Pence, Cindy Luzeniecki, Lovice Brinkman, Mary Self, Rebecca Kroiss, Carolyn Short, Pamela Powell, Rosemary Pistorius, Christine Johnston, Marquita Cox

Members Absent: Cindi Schimmelpfennig, Sheree Sykes, Amanda Parks, Newcomb Mowrer, Amanda Chorak, Rebecca Graham, James Duggan, Erin Goldenstein, Rita Armstrong, Rhonda Showers, Theodis Pace, Chrissy Nojd, Holly Knupp

Guest(s) Present: Sarah Winkel

9:03:

Welcome, Permission to Record

- Permission to Record granted.
- Liz welcomed and shared her Springfield trip experience with the Council.

9:07:

Virtual Meeting Norms and Regional Scan Schedule

- Liz asked the Council to communicate using the chat and raise hand function on Zoom.
- Liz also shared a revised Regional Scan schedule.

9:10:

Review Slot Gap / Jam Board Activity

- Recommendations based on Slot Gap data:
 - Extend home visiting through age 5.
 - More transportation in rural areas for those wanting to attend college for education.
 - More funding to support adults who want to enter a program to become ECE teachers.
 - Better teacher salaries and sustainability in the salaries.
 - Provide better awareness of programs available.
 - Study past Model Parental Training Grant and how this can influence parent needs (Ex. -Theraplay).

9:25:

Local Collaboration Presentations

- **LIC (Local Interagency Council)- Cindy Luzeniecki**
 - Cindy presented information on LIC.

- Cindy's region is the 3rd largest in Illinois servicing Will, Grundy, LaSalle, and Kankakee Counties.
- LIC works to get children into Early Intervention (EI) services, not based on income and family-based so families choose providers (families can choose private).
- Challenge: The number of providers and having to commute across a large area. Providers do not get compensated for travel. Providers want to do virtual, but families want face-to-face sessions. EI needs more providers to serve families across the region. LIC is state-funded and there is a huge backlog in pay to the providers. EI needs to be more appealing to those in school and require a doctorate for therapists (ex. PT, Speech...) will only hurt the therapist's task force in EI.
- Utopia for Kankakee County:
 - Bring professionals (EI, Pre-K) together and cast a vision to work as a team (sharing ideas, and items...)
 - ECE System for parents and families.
 - Sustainability and voting power.
- Utopia for Iroquois County:
 - Better transition and continued transition from EI to schools.
 - A need for therapists who will service Iroquois.
 - Medical services are needed in Iroquois, "Needs are so much greater than we've had in a long time."

10:10:

Priority Populations

- Liz provided background on priority populations.
- Live data is needed to advocate for better needs (our IECAM data is from 2020). Our numbers are not accurate looking at IEP Counts, LEP Counts, and Homeless Counts.
- Covid will increase our numbers in these counts.
- Homelessness can be better defined as some families choosing to live with other families.
- IEPs were dramatically affected by Covid but again the numbers are not accurate from 2020. As more areas are opening up, we will see the true effect and screenings will need to be done.
- "It's across the board, not just children with IEPs, but all children are needing services." "Covid babies- are typically 2 years behind the board. Not just PreK but even college." "What do we do as a county? Instead of trying to catch these kids up, we lower the standards."

- Access to languages is needed statewide in schools and classes for the parents to embed English daily.

10:29:

Local Focus Group Discussion

- Liz informed the Council of upcoming focus groups in the area and asked our Council to offer ideas for other groups.
 - River Valley MOPS, Pembroke Hispanic population, and homeschool families.
 - Kennilyn asked for parent suggestions for focus groups.

10:37:

Family Council Updates (FACE- Kennilyn Hickory)

- Family Council is full, and most recently we added 3 Iroquois members.
- February Family Council meeting discussed ECEC and Slot Gaps.

10:45:

Adjourn

Next Meetings:

**March 2, 2023
9:00-11:00am
KCC NEC & Virtual**

**March 16, 2023
9:00-11:00am
Virtual Only**