



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 33 Action Council Core Meeting

**Date & Time: 3/16/23- 4:15pm**

Council Members present:

Erin Brown, Tara Case, Cicely Fleming, Amy Fullerton, Amy Gipe, Emily Henry, Rhonda Hillyer, Pam Gaither, Miranda Gullberg, John Mabon, Malia Owens, Peter Schwartzman, Jodi Scott, Roy Van Meter, Sabrina Wilson

Council Members absent:

Lisa Medina-Foshay, Kim Stickel, Mary Reed, Josh Gibb, Anthony Law, Scott Rasso, GoGo Kupa

#### **4:15pm: Welcome, Recording, Community Agreement, Vision, Mission (5 minutes)**

Notes:

\*Welcome Sabrina Wilson, Health Supervisor-Eagle View Health Systems

\***Icebreaker:** Seeing, Hearing, Tasting, Smelling, Touching:

What is your favorite "Sense" of Spring?

Seeing people out walking, sound of birds singing in the morning, smell of lilacs, smell of dirt being turned over on a farm, colors of spring, smell of cut grass, warmth of spring, smell of rain, feel of sunshine on your skin, the colors of flowers, colors of spring.

#### **4:20pm: Video: How are the Children? (5 minutes)**

#### **4:25pm: Home & Center-based Programs Review- See PowerPoint (9 minutes)**

Notes:

\*Other organizations supporting growth and development of ECEC include:

- The Play Yard, Knoxville
- Early Learning Center, Monmouth
- Lutheran Church, Galesburg
- Better Together-Dolly Parton Library, Aledo
- United Way
- MOPS, Mercer County
- MOMS 2 MOMS- Bethel Baptist, Galesburg
- Jamieson After School Program, Monmouth



#### **4:34pm: Workforce Review- See PowerPoint (10 minutes)**

Notes:

- \*Additional information not contained in review to be considered:
  - Eagle View patient transportation is becoming available through a grant
  - Car seats can be provided by ROE
  - Language Barrier (Covenant church) if
  - Home Providers can be licensed even if they can't read/write English
  - Southeastern Community College in Burlington offers ECEC
  - Spoon River College in Canton & Macomb offers ECEC

#### **4:44pm: Family/Caregiver Experiences: (33 minutes)**

Notes:

- \*Cost for ECEC Services
  - Too high for families- often equal to mortgage
  - Priority demonstrates money over children
- \*Quality of ECEC Services
  - A reference system is needed
  - Access dependent on word-of-mouth
  - Credentialing doesn't discern meeting criteria from skills
  - Difficult for families to discern safety of providers
  - Low-income families aren't always able to access highest quality opportunities
- \*Availability/Access as viewed by Families
  - Availability of Child Care is limited by Geography and waiting lists
  - Home providers keep capacity low, so they won't have to credential
  - Access to Health Care/Pediatricians is very limited and often requires leaving the Region or being scheduled months in advance.
  - The societal shift away from extended families has increased the need for providers
  - Transportation systems are limited to urban areas and most providers are not on established public transportation routes.
  - Licensing is an obstacle to work force and available space for children
  - Provider's hours are not flexible and do not allow for work hours of Families
  - Only 2 pediatricians in the Region. Families travel out of region, rely on family doctors, nurse practitioners, prompt cares, clinics, and ER's
  - Family health plans often limit access to potential healthcare providers



- Immigrant families often rely on their own informal childcare arrangements within the immigrant community rather than credentialed providers.
- Language barriers are obstacles to ECEC access and employment
- \*Responses by ACTION Council Members
  - Quality:
    - +References for Providers is provided by INCCRRA
    - +Other resources include: Ready 4K, Sunshine Program
    - +The Region's Head Start Programs are of the highest quality and accessible by Low-income families
    - +Low-income families don't always take advantage of the resources provided them by government programs and resources
    - +An example of Centers that may not be accessible to Low-income families- those Centers that are sought after sometimes prefer to not to deal with State paperwork
    - +3 Providers in Knox County have Non-traditional work hours
    - +Families have difficulty finding a provider when their provider is sick
  - Availability/Access:
    - +Families travel out-of-region for Dentistry & Mental Health services
    - +There is a difference in ECEC between Licensure and Credentialing
    - + CCR&R can provide list of providers, times, openings, dates, trainings, licensing/credentialing
    - +Home Child Care Network offers referrals for providers
    - +There is a need for all information and resources to be housed under ONE agency as called for by the 2019 Funding Commission

### **5:17pm: Strengths & Needs (16 minutes)**

Notes:

\*Regional Strengths:

- Collaboration between ECEC organizations
- ROE dedicated to strengthening ECEC
- Attitude that "Child success should not be limited by income, geography, race, gender, religion, etc."
- Awareness of ECEC problems by broad spectrum of stakeholders

\*Challenges facing our Region:

- Workforce shortage due to hybrid/remote workforce
- Special Needs/Mental Health Services are limited
  - +Not enough adequate training for staff



- +Provider burn out
- +Birth to 3 are not awarded same services
- Need for wrap around care

**5:33pm: Recommendations & Next Steps: (7 minutes)**

Notes:

\*Building Awareness

- Tribute with Pictures
  - +Families: Miranda Gullberg & Go Go Kupa
  - +Agencies: Home Child care Network, ROE, Birth to Five Illinois
  - +Community: Mayor Peter Schwartzman, City of Galesburg

\*Regional Council Manager invites all Council members to share ideas 24/7

- Consider scheduling individual time with Regional Council Manager to go over ideas/concerns, questions
- How can the Region #33 Birth to Five Illinois Team support our Collaboration?
- How can the State Birth to Five Illinois support our Collaboration?

\*Future Meetings will be:

- \*April 4<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) @ 12:15pm – ONLINE
  - Invitation from Rhonda Hillyer
- \*April 20<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) @ 4:15pm – Hybrid
  - Monmouth ROE 105 North E St. Monmouth IL 61462
  - Invitation from Roy Van Meter

**5:40pm: Meeting Adjourned**