



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 33 Action Council Core Meeting

**Date & Time: 4/20/23- 4:15pm**

Council Members present:

Stephanie Burkhardt, Tara Case, Amy Fullerton, Amy Gipe, Emily Henry, Rhonda Hillyer, Miranda Gullberg, GoGo Kupa, Lisa Medina-Foshay, Scott Rasso, Mary Reed, Peter Schwartzman, Jodi Scott, Roy Van Meter, Sabrina Wilson

Council Members absent:

Erin Brown, Cicely Fleming, Pam Gaither, Josh Gibb, Anthony Law, John Mabon, Malia Owens, Kim Stickell

#### **4:15pm: Welcome, Recording Reminder (20 minutes)**

Notes:

\*Welcome

\***Icebreaker:** Your Favorite Hot Weather Food?:

Corn on the Cobb w/butter x4, Grandmother's homemade ice cream, Chicken salad creation, Ice cream, BLTs, Fish or Shrimp on the grill, Fresh salmon on the grill, Watermelon x3, Okra, Pasta salads, Tomatoes, and cucumber straight out of the garden

\*Laundry List & Announcements:

\* [Advancing Preschool Inclusion](#)

-Launch: April 28, 1-3PM

-RSVP, due April 24<sup>th</sup>

\****ACTION & FAMILY Council Social***

-*We are buying*

-May 11th (Thursday), flexible time

+This date will not work as ROE already has a meeting that night

-May 18<sup>th</sup>? (Thursday)

-Roy asked for suggestions for a future date

\****Regional Needs Assessment- Name Change***

*(Artist formerly known as Regional Scan)*



**4:40pm: Video: [Brain Boosting Foods for Babies!](#) (4:35 minutes)**

**4:45pm: Agenda: (62 minutes)**

- Regional Needs**
- Solutions & Recommendations**
- Questions for Others?**

Notes:

\*Regional Needs of Families:

- \*Infant/Toddler Care
- \*More Home Providers
- \*Higher Income Adjustment
- \*Lower Costs
- \*Trust for Education
- \*Family Literacy
- \*More ESL Adult Options
- \*More ECEC Capacity
- \*Easier Access to Info
- \*Transportation
- \*Access to Healthcare
- \*Quality Providers
- \*Special Needs Services
- \*Flexible Hours
- \*Culturally Nurturing ECEC
- \*Elimination of Acronym Language

\*Solutions for Families:

- \*Easier Access to Information would impact all the needs on the list
- \*Simplification of Acronyms Language
- \*More Infant/Toddler Care
- \*Higher Quality Providers
- \*More Home Providers
- \*Put Early Head Start into homes
- \*More buildings for facilities especially in Henderson County
  - Home providers could use community spaces creatively
  - Revitalize churches, duplexes, etc.
- \*Early Childhood resources need to become common knowledge
  - Through Community Leadership



- Through Human Service Agencies
- Through generational awareness

\*Regional Needs of Providers:

- \*More Employees
- \*Increased Wages
- \*Employee Retention
- \*Lower Costs
- \*Expedited Fingerprinting
- \*Family Income Adjustment
- \*Real-Time Data
- \*Translated Training
- \*Translated Licensing
- \*More Capacity
- \*Transportation Options
- \*Simplified Facility Compliance
- \*Simplified DCFS Processes
- \*Reliable Non-Grant Funding
- \*Improved DCFS Communication
- \*Consistent Policy Monitoring
- \*Geographical Autonomy

\*Solutions for Providers:

- \*Increased wages and benefits resulting in:
  - More employees,
  - Employee Retention
  - Should include Head Start and other entities
    - +Limits competition and job hopping
  - Should be supplemented financially
    - +By those benefiting (Business)
    - +Community organizations collaborating together
    - +Not by increased costs to families
- \*Replace the competitive grant funding model with a funding model that values the development of all children regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, zip code
- \*"Red Tape" needs to be simpler
  - Many home providers have HS diplomas



- Improving quality is often tied to education and creates roadblocks
- \*Translation documentation could be done Regionally based on need
  - Eliminates delays from State agencies approval and completion
- \*DCFS communication clear, consistent, and supportive instead of restrictive
  - Specify rules and regulations
  - Give providers longer timelines and assistance if regulations change
  - Standardize policy across monitoring agencies (DCFS/Fire Marshall)
  - Allow Directors to remain open while progressing
    - +While pursuing their degree
    - +Emergency license Directors like ISBE does Teachers

\*Regional Needs of Others:

- \*Simplification of Acronyms Language
- \*Early Childhood resources need to become common knowledge
  - Through Community Leadership
  - Through Human Service Agencies
  - Through generational awareness
- \*Flexible Hours that reflect the needs of Families and Businesses
- \*Geographical Autonomy to utilize local solutions and decision-making

**5:47pm: Next Steps: (2 minutes)**

Notes:

\*Schedule Individual Meetings with Roy

\*Future Meetings will be:

\*May 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday) @ 12:15pm – ONLINE

-Invitation from Rhonda Hillyer

\*May ?? (TBA)- Joint ACTION & FAMILY Council SOCIAL

**5:49pm: Meeting Adjourned**