



Region 45 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: July 27, 2023, 11 am-1 pm

Council Members present:

- Suzanne Kollmann
- Anne Riley
- Ashley Schanks

Council Members absent:

- Aubrey O'Riley
- Lori Koen
- Gina Harberl
- Richelle Metz
- Melissa Duncan
- Brittany Rongey
- Rebekah Hillerman
- Rachel Marshall
- Tara Knopp

11:00: Welcome (5 Minutes)

Candace Gardner– Regional Council Manager

Molly Krebel - Family and Community Engagement Specialist

Jessica Schloemann - Administrative Assistant

Notes:

Decisions made:

Next Steps: N/A

11:05: Updates (30 Minutes)

Meeting Notes

Notes:

- Action Council- We are looking to add this to our council.
- Interest forms close August 13th
- Family Council- We are looking to add to our council. Interest forms close August 13th.
- Events- If you know of any community events going on, please let us know. We are always looking to collaborate with others and do community engagement. We would love to have members of our council join us at these events. We have Donut Discussions on August 3rd and Back to School Bash on August 5th that we will be attending.
- Early Childhood Regional Assessment- This is complete and will be officially released to the public on July 31st. We will be having three separate dissemination dates August 10th @ 11 am and August 24th @ 2 pm and/or 7 pm.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Please sign up for one of the dates listed above and let Candace know if you would be willing to answer a few questions during the meeting about your experience on the Action Council and the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment.

Meeting Notes

11:35: Discussions (1 hour 15 minutes)

Notes:

- Candace stated that a child care center in Waterloo will now have fifteen Head Start spots.
- Both Waterloo and Red Bud wrote for the Preschool for All Grant. They were both considered deserts for publicly funded programs.
- Chester wrote for the Preschool for All Expansion grant.
- Smart Start Grant (formerly Child Restoration Grant, funds ended June 30th) is now open. There are some new requirements. Suzi stated that If help is needed, Child Care Resource and Referral can help.
- Suzi Kollmann stated that the Child Care Assistance Program forms have been updated to be less complex. They are making a video to walk people through this new process. Child Care Assistance Program also has a new income eligibility, and she shared these numbers and a new flyer. She also stated that their agency was approved to do Home Visits in Monroe and Randolph County and was awarded forty-five spots.
- Anne Riley stated that she received a grant that will allow her to take a Graduate Program for Infant Mental Health, Infant/Child Development, and Infant/Parent bonding. This is a 100% paid program that will equip her with the expertise that is needed in Monroe County.
- Candace stated that the Illinois Department of Public Health does have a grant available for daycares that will provide air purifiers for the centers to improve air quality. The deadline to apply is July 31st.
- Ashley Schanks stated that she has a full-time Occupational Therapist starting in August.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

12:50: Meeting Schedule & Location & Hybrid Discussion (10 Minutes)

Notes: August's objective will be to inform the community about the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment and to gain feedback and more voices.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Follow up with meeting notes and meeting request.