



MEETING NOTES

Region 3 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 04/10/2023, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Council Members Present: Carla Holtz, Jamie Nichols, Meghan Rewers, Megan Harley, Jessica Green

Council Members Absent: Sadie Ruholl, Paula White, Shannon Gelsinger, Kevin Busher, Natalie Repking, Ashley Harmon,

1:00pm: Dissemination

Notes: Brainstormed dissemination ideas

1:20pm: Regional Scan Review

Notes:

- Child care deserts
 - Its really hard to sustain a small center in a rural area. To make it financially is super tough unless you have a larger center
 - To put slots in small rural areas is great in theory – but Effingham receives children from all over the Region because parents work in Effingham
 - Cannot get staff to travel to a rural community to work for little pay
 - Traveling outside the county, not just the town, to find a child care center when parents work in Bond Co, for example, adds an hour commute to their day with in turn affects families' home life
- Publicly funded Centers
 - Licensed family home or centers participate in Accelerate
 - Data implies there are more programs in the Region than there really are
 - Ex. Silver Circle Quality Centers – are they counted twice in the data?
 - Headstart and Early Headstart
 - Lower pay for staff than other places in the Region but Headstart is a need Region 3 needs to keep and support.
 - Discussed the way grants are written and dispersed unequally
 - Discussed PFA/PFAE



- Difficulty getting dual certified teachers in PFA/PFAE programs
 - Dual-certified teachers receive no more incentives than non-dual-certified teachers.
 - Included more work but zero incentives to entice teachers to become dual-certified
- CCAP slots
 - Raising the minimum wage in IL is pushing families above the FPL and disqualifying them from utilizing CCAP. But families still cannot afford daycare even with an increase in the minimum wage.
- Discussed the need for trauma-informed care for staff, push for male staff members, in-depth learning and professional development for teachers
 - High School counselors need to be pushing ECEC as a career choice and field of study to students, but they don't because of the low pay
- Discussed teacher/staff retention
 - High demand/low pay
 - Unrealistic expectations
 - Teachers are not allowed to be in control of their classroom in their own way
 - Too much paperwork in some districts
 - Unsupportive administration
 - No experience in ECEC or ECEC credits
 - No mental health support for students
 - First thing to go with budget cuts is mental health services
 - In a daycare setting – there is no planning time, no time for teachers to collaborate together
 - There is so much to do to be considered quality, there just isn't time to give staff to devote to that during a workday
 - Discussed Knowledge, support, and needs when it comes to EC workforce

2:20pm: Pencil Me In

Notes: mentioned appreciation dinners for councils

Decisions: email dates and restaurant suggestions to council members

Next Meeting

Date: May 1, 2023

Time: 1:00pm



Location: Zoom