



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 3 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 03/06/2023, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Council Members Present: Meghan Rewers, Carla Holtz, Kevin Busher, Jamie Nichols, Sadie Ruholl, Beth Wise

Council Members Absent: Megan Harley, Ashley Harmon, Jessica Green, Shannon Gelsinger

#### **1:00pm: Icebreaker Activity**

Notes: N/A

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **1:20pm: Smart Start Illinois**

Notes: briefly went over Smart Start Illinois – noted that without staff these plans will never come to fruition

#### **1:40pm: Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Staff**

Notes:

- Reviewed demographics of teachers and staff staff – mostly non-bilingual female staff
  - Representative of Region
- Reviewed Education of Licensed Center Teachers
  - Mostly High School GED
  - Smaller number with high education levels
  - Requirements don't need any sort of college degree
    - Higher Education Navigators through CCR&R to help GED staff to go back to school to get ECEC education
    - ECA Scholarship making a huge difference in ECEC enrollment in college
    - Partnership with Ren Lake College – training with college credit attached (6 credit hours)
- Recruitment by providers
  - Colleges working on programs



- Effingham Co. in the process of stabilization grants (similar to Great Start) – a stipend given to ECEC workers in Effingham Co. based on longevity and part-time/full-time status
    - One-time payment annually, or semi-annually
    - Funds to come from donations from local businesses
  - No initiatives in Regions doing work toward recruitment
- Infant – Toddler Credentials
  - Mostly no – harder to get
    - The yes – most likely Accelerate program and credentials are pushed
  - Specific requirements – in addition to the ECE credential (cannot get without the ECE credential)
  - Difficult to navigate the credential chart
  - Numbers of staff with credentials are climbing since the current data came out
  - Directors supporting staff to get credentials
    - Incentive to meet Accelerate standards – Associate degrees come out with ECE 4 and Infant/Toddler 4
    - Higher wages for staff with these credentials
- ECE Credentials
  - More staff that have the credential than Infant/Toddler credential
  - No fee, no transcripts needed (level 1)
    - Level 1 does not count towards Accelerate
    - Best practice for child care centers to require ECE Level 1 in the first 90 days
  - What level does this data show?
    - ECE Credentials 2-6 require college course work and experience
  - Anyone registered with Gateways is included in the data
    - Can skew data if people who have credentials do not work in a child care center anymore
  - Data does not show ECE 5 credentials
- Final Slot Gap Numbers
  - Data starts in 2020 at the beginning of Covid when a lot of centers were closed or severely limited
  - Jamboard - What does the information regarding the placement of early childhood education and care sites, along with the slot gap, contribute to the conversation about the early childhood workforce?



- Smaller towns have fewer resources – the more rural you get the harder it is
- If more slots were available in these deserts, then families possibly would work in their own community
- Not a lot of work available in smaller communities so parents commute to work and therefore find child care where the jobs are
- Children are most at risk when parents are desperate to find care to be able to work

**2:20pm: Pencil Me In**

Notes: shared upcoming Focus Group dates with members

Next Steps: send members Focus Group flyers with meeting minutes

**2:30pm: Adjourn**

**Next Meeting**

Date: March 20, 2023

Time: 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Location: Zoom