



MEETING NOTES

Region 1-B-C Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: February 9, 2023, 4:30-6:30 PM Zoom Meeting

Council Members present: Michelle Zurita-Sharpe, Janis Jones, Leatha Asbury, Rochelle Golliday, Felicia McBride, Janice Martin, Gretchen Bailey, Adelia Brienzo
Council Members absent: Billy Hubbert, Daniela Rivera, Joyce Scott, Kelly Burke, Kimiya Lewis, Sharhianna Fulce

4:30 PM: Welcomes/Icebreaker (15 mins)

If you could have dinner with anyone, two people, dead or alive, who would that be and why?

Notes

- Action Council Members responded to the icebreaker question and shared their answers with the rest of the group.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:45 PM: Review of Community Agreements and Best Practices (5 mins)

Notes:

- Action Council Members reviewed community agreements and decided we don't want to make any changes to the agreements at this time.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:50 PM: Review/Follow-up (10 mins)

Notes: Ashonti-RCM reviewed the topic we discussed with Action Council in the previous meetings. Jaime-FACE Specialist, gave an update on the new members that have joined the Family Council and updated them on the next meeting that is scheduled for 02/16/23. The topics below are what was discussed in this section of the meeting:

- Slot Gap Analysis
- Local Community Collaborations (Recommendations)
- Interviews/Focus Groups
- Family Council Updates



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Jam Board links will be emailed in a recap email to Action Council Members.

5:00 PM: What is a Priority Population? (30 mins)

Notes: During this meeting section, Ashonti-RCM defined Priority Population and presented a PowerPoint on Priority Population in our region. Action Council Members discussed their view on Priority Population and what is missing.

***A Priority Population is identified as a community group living within one or many different risk factors. Priority Populations are not limited to gender, race, nationality, age, income, or education level.**

Action Council Member's Thoughts on Priority Population:

- Most students experiencing homelessness are in the black/Latino community.
- In childcare, we have encountered all of these.
- There are not a lot of agencies or resources in the Southland for these populations.
- Available assistance is not easy to find.
- I've had seasonal workers that worked for landscaping companies in the Spring and Summer.
- There is a large population of migrant and seasonal workers in IL - I have been more involved recently with the Migrant Education Program based out of NIU.
- Working with parents who are substance abusers-the children would put the pencils to their arms; they are getting this from someplace, but this isn't something an average child would do. I learned not to be so critical.
- Worked with most of these populations as a public school teacher. I find that caregivers with more than one child with a disability tend to also struggle with mental health issues (because of the mental load required to care for multiple children with significant needs). And they are overwhelmed and trying to navigate the system seeking additional support (e.g., therapies outside of school) but with no help.
- There are more than 37 children in relative care than reported.
- Families being referred to ECHO by DCFS that have very high needs are in foster care, but the biological parent is still in the picture, unsure of how they may be counted.
- Maybe this overview is not counting children in private agencies.

*Below are questions that were asked during the meeting regarding Priority Population.



1. What challenges do teen parents still experience? Do you see these challenges in your community?
 - Transportation
 - Need support on how to be a parent.
 - Getting children ready for life.
 - Teen parents are still living with their parents.

2. Do you know of any school-based Health Education programs that provide comprehensive services for teen parents?
 - UCAN
 - Connect Teen-Lori's Children's Hospital
 - Metro Family Services

3. What can healthcare providers/community partners do to contribute/support?
 - Higher Teen birthrate in children in DCFS, Deep poverty,
 - Are these teen parents considered homeless because they are doubling up with family members?
 - A lot of these head start and PI programs are about numbers instead of thinking of the families.
 - Things happen; it wasn't just because mom wasn't working and paying the rent; the landlord may not be doing his job.
 - Sometimes transportation is an issue; when the car breaks down, the families must move, and then they must move in with someone else.

4. Do teen birth rates correlate to other priority populations?
 - Are these teen parents considered homeless because they are doubling up with family members?
 - Episodic is a pretty common form of homelessness.
 - On other occasions, some families use McKinney Vento to put their children in a better school district.
 - The family dynamics, the poor landlord.
 - Community violence can contribute to homelessness.
 - We mentioned grandparents as parents. Did we consider children affected by loss due to violence (shootings)?

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Send Action Council a recap of "What is priority population" questions.

5:30 PM: Populations identified as Priority Population (30 mins)

Notes: Ashonti-RCM discussed with Action Council what populations are identified as Priority Populations. Below are populations that are missing from the list.



What's Missing:

- Children/families who have experienced trauma/violence.
- As well as children whose caregivers have PHYSICAL disabilities or are dealing with substance abuse.
- Kinship
- Families living in shelters.
- Families whom other family grandparents and parents raise, aunts, uncles, etc.
- When families look at homelessness, they think it means sleeping in the car or on the street, but if you live with a relative, this could mean you.
- Met families in extreme poverty living in a basement that wasn't considered a safe living space.
- So many families don't understand the definition of homelessness and could be receiving resources.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Action Council Members will review questions in a follow-up email.

6:00 PM: Questions to Consider (10 mins)

Notes:

1. What does this information tell us about our region?
2. What do you notice about the location of different racial/ethnic families, the location of early childcare providers, priority populations, etc.?
3. Are there programs to support migrant, immigrant, and refugee families? If so, what are those? Have they located anywhere that can easily reach these families/communities?
4. What information is missing or would be helpful to understand this data better?

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Review Priority Populations at the next meeting.

6:10 PM: Recommendations (10 mins)

Notes: We didn't have any recommendations at the end of the meeting.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:20 PM: Closing (5 mins)



Notes: During the closing of the meeting, questions were addressed, and we discussed the next meeting date and time.

Address Parking Lot Questions

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Follow-up/Next Steps:

Next Meeting

February 23rd, 2023

Lansing Public Library