



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 30 Action Council Virtual Meeting

**Date & Time: Thursday, February 2, 2023, 5:30p–7:30p**

**Council Members present** : Sheryl Houston, Tangela Oliver, Patty Davis, Tracie Griffith, Brittany Matthews, Kathy Swafford, M Stalls, Denise Henry, Cheryl Graff, Colleen McLaughlin, Sandy Snowden, Van Ikner, Lashauna Cornelius, Dona Middleton, NaTasha Hubbard, Sheridan Johnson

**Council Members absent** : Debbie Bruns, Lindsey Baskin, Keeshia Carr, and Cindy Rice

#### **5:30pm Welcome, Introductions, and video re: “Story Telling with Data” (10 minutes)**

**Notes:** Zena welcomed everyone to our Action Council Meeting! Members asked Cheryl Graff how her holiday trip was to Japan and she shared. Sandy Snowden also shared. Zena also introduced our new Member, Van Ikner, and asked him to introduce himself to our Action Council. Members watched the video. Zena asked for comments about it and shared the topic for the evening.

#### **5:40pm Consensus Statements-Priority Populations (60 minutes)**

**Presenter:** Zena Madison

**Materials:** PowerPoint, Whiteboard for Statements

**Notes:**

- Didn't expect Perry County to have the highest poverty level, Project Leader, STAR NET Region IV
- Not surprised due to the small towns within Perry County, Community Member
- Data is off for Jackson County, Regional Superintendent Jackson County
- Council Member mentioned numbers for Alexander & Pulaski should be higher regarding poverty levels

**Children with disabilities:**

- Families with a child with disabilities want the same services for all other children in the household, Project Leader, STAR NET Region IV
- Transportation is a big issue in our area as families are not able to go get the services needed. It was mentioned as an example, one parent takes off work one day a week to be able to take her kids to get services that day.



- Parents wish schools provided services at the child's setting
- Lack of support and funding
- All children qualify for an assessment but have to be at 30% or higher to meet criteria for treatment, Pediatrician, Union County
- Foster kids more likely to meet criteria
- Dental care in the area: they don't accept Medical Card, limited appointment, people have to drive far for dental services
- St. Louis offers pediatric emergency dental care services

### **6:40pm Break (10 minutes)**

#### **Homelessness:**

- It's hard to get data on homelessness
- ROE #30 works with schools often in this area including training for teachers
- Tough to get accurate numbers because own staff doesn't understand true meaning of homelessness
- Culture may also affect a person's knowledge of the definition
- Data is not being reported, Adult/Optional Education Program Coordinator, Carbondale High School
- A member stated that she went through the training and it was full of great information, SIU Early Childhood Teacher

#### **Barriers based on culture, language, and religion:**

- Union data is not close and possibly wrong
- Head Start program within migrant camp in Cobden

#### **Children/families with welfare involvement:**

- Data for Union county perhaps is high and could be an error?, Union County Pediatrician
- Council Member acknowledged that the community is blessed to have Dr. Swafford as she is also a certified Child Abuse Pediatrician
- Shawnee Health has a full-time translator and may be able to provide more accurate data
- It was mentioned that seasonal migrant works aren't coming to the area with their families anymore. Families stay home while money is sent back, Education Collaboration Member from Jackson County



- It was suggested to contact the Center for Empowerment and Justice on Washington Street in Carbondale for data. Work with people out of the justice system

Zena thanked everyone for all the information shared. We will revisit the hybrid option for April potentially so will send a survey out at the end of March. The church where we had been meeting has sports program going on at the time we were meeting anyways. Zena also mentioned that we are getting closer to the due date for the scan and reviewed the schedule of topics for the next few months.

### **7:15pm Team Building (15 minutes)**

Facilitator(s): Linda Poindexter & Akemi Walker

We asked the following question and everyone shared their stories: "Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest?"

### **7.30pm Meeting adjourned**

Next Meeting

Date: February 16, 2023

Time: 5:30pm—7:30pm

Location: Virtual