



MEETING NOTES

Region 13 Action Council Meeting

Location: 644 North Second Street, Suite 6, Breese IL 62230

Date & Time: February 2nd, 2023, 12:30-2:30 pm

Council Members present: Kara Boozer, Emma Conway, Shirley Gordon, Ashley Griffin, April Higgins, Maria Koehler, Jessica Palazzolo, BreeAnna Pelcynski, Jill Wardlow

Council Members absent: Tranae Brockhouse, Jennifer Clark, Crystal Donoho, Makyla Hargrave, Mary Hart, Christy Jean, Deborah Lewis

12:30 Welcome, Introductions, Ice Breaker & Community Agreements (10 mins)

Notes:

- Birth to Five Staff: Heather Pruettt – Regional Council Manager, Brittany Lemons – Family & Community Engagement Specialist, Jessica Chin – Administrative Support
- Members: Kara Boozer – Youth development educator at the University of Illinois Extension, Emma Conway – PreK Teacher at Germantown Elementary, Shirley Gordon – Elect Lady at Southtown Apostolic Church, Ashley Griffin – Director of Ivy League Day School, April Higgins – Quality Compliance Manager at Heat Start, Maria Koehler – Director at Head Start, Jessica Palazzolo – Manager at Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center, BreeAnna Pelcynski – Special Education Teacher in Nashville, Jill Wardlow – Program Director for the Regional Office of Education Preschool for All
- Members introduced themselves and talked about their reactions to Groundhog Day.
- Community Agreements for an effective meeting space were reviewed.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

12:40 Family Council Updates (8 mins)

Notes:

- Brittany reviewed updates from the Family Council and her efforts on community outreach.

- Heather shared what was captured from our Local Community Collaboration discussion.
- Jill talked about plans for the Early Childhood Collaboration that will be created in our region from Birth to Five's Planning Grant.

Decisions made:

- The Action Council can continue to pose questions or request information from the Family Council to continue working side by side.

Next Steps:

- Email Brittany if you would like her to attend any events in your organization.

12:48 Priority Populations Discussion and Data Review (30 mins)

Notes:

- Discussed the purpose, criteria, and list of Priority Populations.
- Reviewed who is qualified for McKinney-Vento and the services that are provided.
- Shared Priority Population data maps of Region 13
 - Community Level Risk Factors
 - Homelessness
 - Poverty
 - Maltreatment
 - Early Intervention
 - Early Childhood Special Education
 - Maternal Education

Decisions made:

- Covid contributed to the increase of Early Childhood Special Education with the delay of Early Intervention.
- 0-2 children fall through the cracks because families do not have the support to know where to get referrals.

Next Steps: N/A

1:18 Large Group Discussion (52 mins)

Notes:

- Action Council members discussed Priority Population questions and discussion points as a group.
- "We went through the screening process for Early Intervention and at the end of it, they said the issue was we lived in a rural area. They had a difficult time getting someone out to service us and they were short-staffed. We chose not to go on with the services because it was difficult to work with."
- "Students were getting screened virtually and they were determined they didn't need services. Once we got the students in-person and around other children we could see they would have benefited from services."

Decisions made:

- The current data is 2 years old and does not reflect what happened with the increase in Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education during and after Covid.
- Covid made programs go virtual which made families drop out of services for multiple reasons or not get full-level programs.
- We currently have a migrant population in our region but do not have many services put in place for these families.
- What our region needs to service Priority Populations:
 - Services that are not so far away
 - More Birth to 3 services
 - Central place for resources
 - Programs to work together
 - Family and Community Navigator
- The minimum wage increase will take families out of lower-income programs. The concern is the programs will not change their requirements and leave families without help.

Next Steps:

- Find data on how many children qualify for Early Intervention and don't follow through and why. We could ask Child and Family Connections (CFC) and our Family Council.

2:10 Meeting 6 Preview, Review Training Opportunities, Closing Comments (6 mins)

Notes:

- The next Action Council meeting will include Priority Populations and Early Childhood Education and Care Programs.
- On-demand foundational trainings were shared.
- Discussed focus groups and interviews and requested members to send the consent form to anyone they believe would like to share their experiences.

Decisions made:

- The Action Council decided that a full group discussion is preferred over breakout rooms.

Next Steps:

- Our next meeting will be February 16th at 12:30pm.

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- Email Brittany if you would like her to attend any events in your organization.
- Find data on how many children qualify for Early Intervention and don't follow through and why. We could ask Child and Family Connections (CFC) and our Family Council.
- Our next meeting will be February 16th at 12:30pm.