



Action Council Meeting

Action Council Members

Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024

Time: 6pm to 8pm

Attendees

Council members present: Lori Longueville, Sandy Snowden, Denise Henry, Natalie Juhl, M Stalls, Colleen McLaughlin, Tangela Oliver, and Sheridan Johnson

Council members absent: Lindsay Baskin, Keeshia Carr, Patty Davis, Tracie Griffith, Sheryl Houston, NaTasha Felton, Van Ikner, Donna Middleton, Cindy Rice, Kathy Swafford, Kim McCombs, and Mikayla Wade

Agenda

1. Welcome
Zena welcomed everyone to our meeting today and apologized for our technical difficulties with Zoom.
2. Group agreements
Akemi shared her screen of the group agreements as well as reading them out loud to review them together. No comments were made.
3. Icebreaker
Akemi went on to lead the icebreaker. Asked everyone to pick a number from one to six and a question will be asked accordingly to get us started today. Everyone picked a number and shared accordingly.
4. Formal Introductions of New Members
Zena introduced our new Council Members present today who joined this year—Lori Longueville and Natalie Juhl. Asked each to share a little bit about them. Lori mentioned being familiar with our council already through her work. Natalie introduced herself...she teaches and is the Director at a preschool in our Region/Du Quoin and has been in this early childhood space for many years. Zena thanked them for joining us this work year.
5. National Day of Racial Healing
 - a. Conversations on Racial Healing –

Zena led this discussion by asking key questions. Zena: Discussed "National Day of Racial Healing" and went around the room asking members their feelings/experience with racism. Key questions discussed:



1. Have you ever experienced a situation where your racial or ethnic identity seemed to contribute to a problem or uncomfortable situation?
2. Have you ever witnessed someone being treated unfairly because of their racial or ethnic identity?
3. When did you think about your race and what happened when you thought about it?

Everyone shared their thoughts and hearts and had a good, honest conversation about the subject.

Quote-"When we create safe spaces where truth-telling and uncomfortable conversations can happen, we have hope that healing can happen." LaJune Montgomery Tabron.

6. Transitioning to Mental/Behavioral Health
 - a. Zena proceeded to mention that we will be focusing on mental health starting with our next meeting. More information to come.

Before the next meeting...

- Review agendas and data
- Mark your calendar for the next Family Council meeting, February 1, 2024