



MEETING NOTES

Region 09 Action Council Meeting

Location: 601 E Main St. Suite 211 Mahomet, IL 6185

Date & Time: May 4th, 2023; 1:00pm-3:00pm

Council Members present: Marguerite Bailey, Brenda Eastham, Nichole Kitchens, Lynn Odell, Kelly Russell

Council Members absent: Brandi Granse, Rachel Charters, Tyler Reynolds, Tonya Carter, Kim Ray, Lily Jimenez, Jonathan Woods, Ha Young Choi, Donald Gill

1:00pm: Welcome & Introductions & Review of Community Agreements and Meeting 9 Review (10 Minutes)

Notes: No one had any questions.

1:10pm: Meeting Warm-Up (10 Minutes) **Question: What change are you most hopeful for as an outcome of the Regional Needs Assessment (RNA)?**

Notes: members are hoping for more enrollment spots for preschool. Members said they hope by talking about the needs and gaps the people in power will listen and make some changes. Members are concerned that families won't understand the data once the needs assessment is out.

1:20pm: General Review of RNA Points (30 Minutes)

Notes: No one had any questions or concerns.

1:50pm: Break (5 Minutes)

1:55pm: Defining Regional Strengths and Needs (30 Minutes)

Notes: Members said having the U of I bring diversity in the community is a strength. Members said having a variety of services and collaborations with head start in school classrooms. Members also said we work good with other agencies on and off paper across Champaign and Ford County. Champaign has a really involved United Way which is another strength. Members mentioned Chambana moms are good at advertising and reaching out to families. Members stated Ford County had CHASI (Childrens Home and Aid Society) Which provides pregnancy resources and doula services.

Slumber Land has provided beds and furniture. RPC (Regional Planning Commission) has a standard model for helping grow facilities. Carle/OSF having mobile units for preventative health. Parkland college have ready for work programs. Libraries in both rural and urban communities have free spaces to hold workshops. Champaign County has a lot of non-profits for food and afterschool snacks. Food banks in Gibson and Paxton.

Caitlyn said we need to see more diversity in the hiring process. Members said we need more infant toddler spots across the region including rural areas. Members said the region needs more full day pre-k slots and after-hours care for parents who don't workday shift. The region needs more affordable childcare. The region needs more staff and more affordable wages for these staff members. Members said Ford County could use more transportation. Members said mental health for children 3 and up and Spanish speaking families is a huge need. Members want resources to be more accessible. Job recruiting and retention of staff needs to be assessed. Maybe offer incentives and raises. Members said regions need more affordable housing, and less inflation. Caitlyn asked about the need of translation, children with disabilities. Members said there is a need for translators for French, Vietnamese, Chinese, and kanjobal speaking families. There is a need for more therapists and specialists. Early Intervention that speaks a language other than English. Members said there are 83 children on the list for speech therapy. Members said there is only one PT serving EI in champaign county. Members said there is a need for me EI centers who take Medicaid and Medicaid providers in Ford County. Families need to redetermine for Medicaid but don't check their mail or change their addresses.

2:25pm: Open Discussion/ Q&A (25 Minutes)

Notes: Members asked if councils were ending still.

2:50pm: Meeting Wrap-Up (10 Minutes)

Notes: Rotary Groups for dissemination of the Regional Needs Assessment. Members said they will share Facebook engagements.