



## Meeting Notes

### Region 51 Action Council Meeting

**Location: Birth to Five Illinois: Region 51 Building**

**Date & Time: Thursday, April 13, 2023, from 6:00-8:00 pm**

Council Members Present: LeAnn Bell, Apryl Edwards, Kayla Miller, Laura Pickrell, Laurie Rhodes, Tracie Sampson, Wendy Williams, Jamar Scott, Debbie Tiskos, Connie Shugart, Lindsay Sleade, Violet Wiker, Mitch Baker, Kendra Day, Lori Harrison, Lajewell White, and Savannah Wilken.

Council Members Absent: Christine Craddock, Kevi Jackson, Ya'Shika Reed, Doris Turner, Tiffani Saunders, and Jill Larson

**6:00pm: Community Agreements, Ice Breaker, Reviewing of the Local & State Recommendations and Dived Deeper into the Local Recommendations (20 mins)**

Question: How can we increase slots in Licensed Child Care Centers?

*The Council first rewrote the question.*

*Question: How can we increase capacity in ECEC programs caring for children from birth to five?*

- *Increase staff by using workforce mentors/recruiters in the High Schools and keep the staff in the ECEC programs connected to scholarships and grant programs.*
- *Have employers have ECEC programs onsite.*

Question: How can we invest more in Home Visiting Programs to help aid pregnant persons after the child is born?

Answers:

- *Recruit more physicians and community leaders to promote Home Visiting and make referrals through Sangamon Heart.*
- *More Funding to reach more children*

Notes: Ashley asked the Action Council Members to dive deeper into the first two Local Recommendations. She stated that the Local Recommendations were too broad and in order to take action locally the Council would have to ask the question How?-To see How as a community they could take Action. The Council had group discussion around the first two recommendations and will finish the other two at the next meeting



Decisions Made: The Action Council will take the Family Council Recommendations and theirs together to make a final decision.

Next Steps: The two Councils will finish the Local Recommendations at their next Council Meeting.

**6:20pm: Reviewed Demographic, Slot Gap, and ECEC Landscape Data. Reviewed ECEC Licensed Provider and Publicly Funded Facts we have collected from our community. (20 mins)**

Data Answer Sheet: What insights about the ECEC landscape stand out that are new to us?

- *Both counties need more children enrolled in Home Visiting-if they can't get into a center, encouraging enrollment in Home Visiting program that promotes learning at home /child development*
- *Special needs children seem left out of all the conversations.*
- *Accessibility and transportation issues given where services are located.*

Notes: Ashley did a quick review of some data points from demographics, Slot Gap, and the ECEC Landscape. She also provided some facts about the ECEC Licensed Providers and the Publicly Funded Programs. Once all these pieces of data were presented she then asked the Council the above Data Answer question which they discussed as a group.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**6:40pm: ECEC Programs and Workforce Data looking at Directors, Teaching Staff, and Family Child Care Providers. Credentials, and Resources for Providers (20 mins).**

Data Answer Sheet: What data is unavailable or would be helpful to have in this discussion?

- *If a staff member has multiple credentials or just one?*
- *Quality of care-do the credentials help with the quality of care?*
- *No reference of staff having any education in special education.*

Data Answer Sheet: What stands out about this data?

- *Need more males in the ECEC field.*
- *Minimal diversity in center directors and teachers.*
- *FCC has such a lower percentage of FCC credentials.*



Notes: Ashley went over with the Council members the variety of types of credentials, what qualifies someone as a Director, how the staff members go about getting their credentials, and what qualifies programs at the different levels of the circle's quality of care. The Council Members also answered each Data Answer question regarding the data Ashley presented on Workforce on teaching staff, directors, and Family Child Care providers.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**7:00pm: Discussed Early Childhood Education and Care Services (EI, CCAP)**

(30 mins)

Notes: Ashley presented the EI and CCAP data with the Council members and then presented to them new CCAP data. Showing them the number of children receiving CCAP in Region 51 compared to the number of children potentially eligible at 200% FPL.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**7:30pm: Discuss Resources for Providers (Great Start, Gateways Scholarships, IPDF) (10 mins)**

Notes: Ashley went over the three different resources for ECEC providers, Great Start, Gateways (and the resources they offer), and the Individual Professional Development Funds. The Council Members were asking questions with one another about these resources and how the community could better get the word out about the resources into the ECEC professional's hands. A Council Member spoke up saying "Reach one to teach one."

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**7:40pm: Went over Data Sources Reminder, Foundational Trainings Reminder, Family Council Report, and How to Connect. (20 mins)**

Notes: Ashley reminded council members of their access to data sources and the Foundational Trainings. Amanda gave a brief Family Council report stating how we were all together for the March Meet & Greet and we voted on the top Local and State Recommendations.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Send a reminder email for the next mtg on Thursday, April 27th, 2023.