



Meeting Notes

Region 51 Action & Family Council Meeting

Location: Birth to Five Illinois: In-Person & Virtual Teams Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, June 8, 2023, from 6:00-8:00 pm

Council Members Present: Saunja Slater, Debbie Tiskos, Laura Pickrell, Laurie Rhodes, Sara Trine, Jamie Aldridge, Megan Reynolds, Savannah Wilken, Kendra Day, Lindsay Sleade, Violet Wiker, Jamar Scott, Mitch Baker, Lajewell White, and Jill Larson.

Virtual Members Present: LeAnn Bell, Tiffani Saunders, Tabitha Williams, Megan Loberg-Simmering, Kesha Harris, and Bushra Ali

Council Members Absent: Kayla Miller, Apryl Edwards, Tracie Sampson, Wendy Williams, Connie Shugart, Lori Harrison, Christine Craddock, Ya'Shika Reed, Antoinette Bidlingmaier, Tanika Jones, Hilary Kelly, Monique Nally, Mindy Parks, Gail Waddell, and Doris Turner

6:00 pm: Community Agreements, Ice Breaker (*Name, Action or Family Council, County you Serve (Action), County you live in (Family), Q&A, and Future Meetings*) (20 mins)

Question: What skill(s) should everyone have?

- *Literacy, Self Awareness (emotional and self-regulation), and Effective Communication as some of the skills everyone should have.*

6:20-7:15 pm: Early Childhood Needs Assessment Dissemination Plan Overview, explain what areas of Region 51 we need to connect with. (60 mins)

Question: Who needs to see the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment?

- *There was an agreement that everyone must see the Regional Needs Assessment including village boards/city councils, elected officials, large employers/business leaders, hospital/doctor's offices, social services, and local libraries.*



Question: What area(s) of Region 51 was the hardest to engage in? How can we prioritize the community members from this area?

- *Outlying areas of Sangamon County, all of Menard County, Family child care, immigrant communities, and the east side of Springfield were identified as the most challenging to engage.*
- *We need to meet them where they are due to transportation needs. Events in these areas would help engage those community members. Engage with our Alderperson, elected officials, and service providers in those areas to help make connections with community members.*

Question: What organizations or agencies that serve Priority Populations should still be included?

- *There were many named by the Council Members but the following were mentioned several times. They were: social services in the community, medical facilities, Family Child Care providers, food pantries, school districts (Elementary, Jr. High, and High School personnel), and the employers of the families affected by lack of care options (those in the business sector).*

Question: Do any of you, as Council Members, have connections that can be utilized? Will you lead (or connect us with) your contact(s)?

- *Several of the Council Members had connections to surrounding school districts in Region 51, elected officials, as well as health insurance reps, and law enforcement offices in Sangamon County.*
- *Several of the Council Members said they could make some calls or provide us with a contact person for many of the surrounding areas of Region 51.*

Question: What voices still need to be added to our Regional Needs Assessment? How can we prioritize them in our dissemination efforts?

- *We are still looking for the voices of fathers, stay-at-home parents/caregivers, homeschoolers, and business leaders in the communities.*



- *We could reach out to local groups that are focused on the voices we are still needing. We can also start having more individual conversations with these groups of voices.*

Question: What mediums should we use to present/share so that dissemination of our report findings is accessible to all? (visually, hearing, physically, etc)

- *Many ways were suggested, however Facebook, media sources: newspaper/radio/TV, QR code stickers, and brochures/flyers, were the top mentions.*

Question: What pieces of the Needs Assessment are most important to highlight?

- *They felt the most important things to highlight and share were the slot gap data, strengths/needs/recommendations, the importance of ECEC, and the impact on the workforce.*

Question: How will we gather and report back on the feedback given?

- *Either a survey or questionnaire should be used to collect feedback.*

Notes: Everyone either put all their answers on the Data Answer Sheet provided to them or gave their answers verbally or in the chat.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

7:15- 7:50 pm: Go over the Regional Strengths/Needs/Recommendations with the Council Members and ask if there are any questions. Discuss how Council Interest Forms are opening back up and ask if they know anyone for either council and provide them with details of who we are looking for. (35 mins)

Notes: Ashley will send out the interest forms when they are available on Monday, June 12, 2023, with verbiage for the Council Members to recruit via email for both Action and Family Council.

Decisions made: We are looking for certain individuals to submit interest forms to fill voices we are missing on the Councils.

Next Steps: Share the interest form with the Council Members and community who you think would fill a priority population for the Family or Action Council.

7:50 pm: Data Sources Reminder, Foundational Trainings Reminder, Family Council Report, and How to Connect. (10 mins)

Notes: Ashley shared how to connect with us.



Amanda shared some of the events she will be attending over the next couple of months and asked to share events they may know about.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- Send a reminder email for the next meeting:
 - Region 51 Family Council on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 5:30pm-7:30pm
 - Region 51 Action Council on Thursday, July 13, 2023, 6:00pm-8:00pm