



MEETING NOTES

Region 13 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 11/10/2022, 12:30pm-2:30pm

Council Members present: Maria Koehler, Tranae rockhouse, Jill Wardlow, Christy Jean, April Higgins, BreeAnna Pelcynski

Council Members absent: Kara Boozer, Crystal Donoho, Deborah Lewis

12:30 Welcome & Introductions & Review of Community Agreements (7 mins)

Notes:

- Heather Pruettt – Regional Council Manager, Brittany Lemons – Family & Community Engagement Specialist, Jessica Chin – Administrative Support
- BreeAnna Pelcynski – Special Education Teacher in Nashville, Christy Jean – Director of Rend Lake College Children’s Center, Tranae Brockhouse – Director of Project Child and Child Care Resource and Referral Office at Rend Lake College, Jill Wardlow – Program Director for the Regional Office of Education Preschool for All
- Agreements for an effective meeting space was reviewed.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

12:37 Introduction to Birth to Five Illinois Councils, Goals, Available Training (3 mins)

Notes:

- Reviewed Birth to Five Illinois Council goals.
- Explained the Regional Scan overview for November and December. November will be the Demographic overview and December will be the Slot Gap.
- Data resource tools and on-demand foundational trainings were shared.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- Data resources and trainings can be used between meetings to help us with our work.

2:40 Jam Board Activity – Team Building (6 mins)

Notes:

- Action Council members thought about what the Early Childhood Education and Care System would look like after the Regional Scan.
- They were asked to come up with three to four words or phrases to describe the new system they envisioned.
- The activity showed Action Council members had similar thinking about the future.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- The Region 13 office will hang the activity words and phrases in the office to refer to it during our process.

12:46 Regional Scan Demographics Review (1 hour 4 mins)

Notes:

- Presented Region 13 Demographic Overview data and discussed the importance of understanding the demographics of our Region.
- Evaluated federal poverty levels and discussed how many children in our region are living at the 200% federal poverty level and if they can afford childcare.
- Reviewed the Region's Early Childhood Education and Care Providers and how they are mapped in relation to federal poverty levels.
- Discussed what trends we noticed regarding language and family demographics.
- Each county's demographic was evaluated independently.

Decisions made:

- Regional demographics will show us gaps and help us determine where we have a need.
- The current federal poverty level data needs more information on it to determine affordability in our Region.
- The aftermath of COVID has made disparities between who needs care and how much care can be provided.
- Members would like to know what other languages might be in our region besides Spanish to be able to provide documents for those families.
- Overviews of the demographics only show a snapshot and not presenting all the information needed.

Next Steps:

- Find more recent demographic data to help us with our work.
- Contact Region 13 staff about programs that are taking place. We will share it with our community and get the word out.

1:50 Meeting Three Preview, Closing Comments (6 mins)

Notes:

- There will be one meeting in December due to the holidays.
- Two volunteers are needed to assist with Council Member Selection.

Decisions made:

- Our next meeting is December 1st from 1:00pm-2:30pm.
- January 12th is our tentative date for the fourth meeting.

Next Steps:

- Review and seat new Action Council members.
- Study the data presented and bring additional questions to our December meeting.
- Fill out and return the Photo Release form.

1:56 Adjourn

Notes: N/A

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- Heather will send out a recap email to members that could not attend.

Follow-up/New Steps:

- Data resources and trainings can be used between meetings to help us with our work.
- The Region 13 office will hang the activity words and phrases in the office to refer to it during our process.
- Find more recent demographic data to help us with our work.
- Contact Region 13 staff about programs that are taking place. We will share it with our community and get the word out.
- Review and seat new Action Council members.
- Study the data presented and bring additional questions to our December meeting.
- Fill out and return the Photo Release form.
- Heather will send out a recap email to members that could not attend.