



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 13 Action Council Meeting

**Location: 644 North Second Street, Suite 6, Breese IL 62230**

**Date & Time: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, 1:00-3:00pm**

Council Members present: Kara Boozer, Tranae Brockhouse, Jennifer Clark, Emma Conway, Ashley Griffin, Christy Jean, Jessica Palazzolo, Jill Wardlow

Council Members absent: Crystal Donoho, Shirley Gordon, Makyla Hargrave, April Higgins, Maria Koehler, Deborah Lewis, BreeAnna Pelcynski

#### **1:00 Welcome, Introductions & Review of Community Agreements, New Action Council Members Seated (10 mins)**

Notes:

- Birth to Five Staff: Heather Pruettt – Regional Council Manager, Brittany Lemons – Family & Community Engagement Specialist, Jessica Chin – Administrative Support
- New Members: Emma Conway – PreK Teacher at Germantown Elementary, Ashley Griffin – Director of Ivy League Day School, Jessica Palazzolo – Manager at Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center
- Previous Members: Christy Jean – Director of Rend Lake College Children’s Center, Jill Wardlow – Program Director of the Regional Office of Education Preschool for All
- Agreements for an effective meeting space was reviewed.

Decisions made:

- Action Council agreed with the current Community Agreements and no additional agreements need to be added.

Next Steps:

- Action Council members can email staff if they would like to add an agreement and we will discuss it in the next meeting.

#### **1:10 Review Birth to Five Illinois Action Council Goals, Regional Scan, & Family Council Update (8 mins)**

Notes:

- Reviewed Birth to Five Illinois Action and Family Council goals.
- Explained the Regional Scan overview.
- Data resource tools and on-demand foundational trainings were shared.

Decisions made:

- The Action Council can pose questions or request information from the Family Council, and we will report back on the findings.

Next Steps:

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

### **1:18 Slot Gap Data Review and Discussion (1 hour 28 mins)**

Notes:

- Discussed the definition of Slot Gap and presented Region 13 Slot Gap data.
- Evaluated Child Care Capacity Slot Gap and discussed the gap between total number of children and childcare slots.
- Members went into breakout rooms to discuss county specific slot gaps and came back together to report on their findings.
- Members took time to reflect on our slot gap discussions.

Decisions made:

- The data shows 6,303 children without childcare who are eligible but does not show if all 6,303 children would want a spot if it was available.
- Waiting list at centers do not completely represent this gap due to childcare not being accessible, income, transportation, and schedule conflicts with half days.
- When looking at the Region 13 slot gap, members were concerned with kindergarten readiness, lack of accessibility, and family knowledge of what is available.
- Clinton County findings:
  1. 0–2-year-old publicly funded programming is very limited.
  2. There are 45 slots for Early Head Start and it was reported that they were not currently full.
  3. There are few center options available, but many families can't necessarily transport to and from school.
  4. Slots fill very quickly which makes it difficult to access childcare when there is a waitlist situation in all centers.
- Washington County findings:
  1. The county does not have a lot of early childhood programs available.
  2. There are private options available as well as family and neighbor care.
- Marion County findings:
  1. Many working parents have 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift in factories.
  2. A large population are single parent families and can't utilize programs due to a lack in transportation.
  3. Data is missing what families in Marion County need to participate in programs.
- Jefferson County findings:

1. There is high poverty in the county and the data may not be representative of the true numbers.
2. There are not enough infant/toddler slots.
3. The data is missing what is preventing available infant/toddler slots.

Next Steps:

- Find the reasons why families make their childcare decisions.
- Cross reference data from the Sunshine website and Illinois Cares for Kids with IECAM.
- Ask the Family Council what families need to be able to participate in programs.

**2:46 Meeting 4 Preview, Review Training Opportunities, Closing Comments, Meeting Schedule Polls (14 mins)**

Notes:

- The Action Council took polls to decide day and time for the next meeting.
- Member reflected on three things they learned, two things they can share with others, and one thing they want to learn more about.

Decisions made:

- Mid-day or Early afternoon on Wednesdays and Thursdays will work best for Action Council members.

Next Steps:

- The next Action Council meeting is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:30pm.
- Fill out and return the Photo Release form if you have not done so already.
- If there are any questions that we would like to ask the Family Council, please email those to Jessica Chin.

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- Action Council members can email staff if they would like to add an agreement and we will discuss it in the next meeting.
- Data resources and trainings can be used between meetings to help us with our work.
- Find the reasons why families make their childcare decisions.
- Cross reference data from the Sunshine website and Illinois Cares for Kids with IECAM.
- Ask the Family Council what families need to be able to participate in programs.
- The next Action Council meeting is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:30pm.
- Fill out and return the Photo Release form if you have not done so already.
- If there are any questions that we would like to ask the Family Council, please email those to Jessica Chin.