



MEETING NOTES

Region 19 Action Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: December 16, 2022, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

11:00 am: Welcome & Updates (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Reminder of acronyms: We ask Council Members to please use the whole word instead of using acronyms or abbreviations. Some acronyms may not be common for other council members.
 - Acronym resources are located in our Google shared drive.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

11:10 am Diversity Discussion (1 hour 13 minutes)

Notes:

- Based on feedback from our November meeting, we invited Vicki Trotter, Executive Director of Professional Learning at the Regional Office of Education to lead a discussion regarding context when using the word “diversity”.
- When we have a better understanding of how this word affects our perception of what is being communicated, we can establish a foundation for more effective dialogue going forward.
- For more information, feel free to view the recording of the Racial Equity foundational training courtesy of Illinois Action for Children found at <https://www.partnerplanact.org/rcs1/foundational-trainings616>

Decisions made:

- The ask is that going forward we define what we mean when we use the word “diversity” (ex. Socioeconomic status, race, language spoken, etc.).
- In accordance with our Community Agreements, we will agree to embrace curiosity and speak up when something is not expressed appropriately. We will ask clarifying questions to better understand others’ lived experiences and point out when something said does not sit right so that as a group we can learn and make changes accordingly.

Next Steps: N/A



12:23 pm: DuPage County Slot Gap Discussion (37 minutes)

Notes:

- In terms of the state report, we want to focus on the narrative aspect and the explanations of what the data means in DuPage County.
- When talking about slot gap we are talking about Child care, specifically centers, and Child care homes that are licensed and their capacity/ slots available.
- Total children with working families: 44,873
- Gap between working families and available Child care: 21,372
- Discussion around what about this information/data was new or surprising.
- Conversation around how do we determine what the true need is? What spaces are actually available?
- Discussion around wages that are paid to Child care providers, and program prices.
- DCFS regulations are strict when it comes to substitutes.
- Thoughts around where are the kids that are not enrolled in Child care centers.
- Discussion around public/private partnership.
- The availability of Child care and their location
 - Discussion around Child care deserts, does DuPage County have Child care deserts?
 - Immigration status barrier, and the trust issues that comes with proving their information.
 - Pockets of underground Child care.
 - Needed documents for DCFS- birth certificate, passport, vaccination records, etc.
 - Bureaucratic barrier.
 - Spots available for the entire family. There might be spots for older kids but not the toddler or baby.
 - Finding child care that offers transportation to their older kids' school.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- Thankful for everyone's time, and everyone that has presented their knowledge to the group



1:01 pm: Next Steps (5 minutes)

Notes:

- Valerie will be talking with the Family Council members regarding workforce, and early childhood services and bringing it back to Action Council members.
 - If Action Council members have specific questions or suggestions, please send them over to Valerie.
- In January we are starting focus groups and one on one interviews targeting populations that are not represented.
 - If there are recommendations to whom we can have these conversations with, please send those recommendations to Valerie.
- Foundational trainings are still open if one is interested, they are completely free. <https://www.partnerplanact.org/rcs1/foundational-trainings616>
- Reminder that recording is optional, meetings are recorded for Region 19 internal purposes and for note taking.
- Safe and healthy holidays to everyone!

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- Starting in January, we will have two meetings a month. Thank you all for all your dedication and time.
- Next meeting will be January 13, 2023 from 11:00 am to 1:00pm.
- Update to come if we continue virtual or going back to hybrid meetings.