



MEETING NOTES

Region 1-B-C Action Council Meeting

Location: Lansing Public Library

Date & Time: November 2, 2022, 5:00-7:00 PM

Council Members present: 10

Council Members absent: 4

5:10 pm: Welcome (20 mins)

Notes: Introduction of Council Members and 1-B-C Team

-Ashonti Jackson/Regional Council-Manager

-Jaime G/ Family and Community

-Leah Armour/Regional Administrative Support

Lead by Ashonti Jackson (Regional Council Manager)

Icebreaker: November 2nd is National Stress Awareness Day- What do you do to relieve stress? / What do you like about this time of the year and why?

Decisions made: No decisions were made at this time.

Next Steps: N/A

5:30 pm: Early Childhood Education and Care Reflective Questions (40mins)

Notes: Gain an understanding of the council's perspectives on ECEC (Early Childhood Education and Care)

Lead by Ashonti Jackson (Regional Council Manager)

1. What do you know about ECEC in our Region?
 - There is a great need for ECEC in Region 1-B-C.
 - We have enough resources but not enough collaborations in Regions 1-B-C.
 - Not enough funding for free programs for infants and toddler-aged children. More funds are needed for 3-5 to extend half-day programming.
 - We have a lot of Spanish and Arabic-speaking families but not enough resources to support those families.



- We have a lot of children but not enough slots for children to attend school before starting kindergarten.
- The Childcare centers, Pre-Schools, ISBE, and Schools aren't working together it seems as if it's a competition.
- Our families are overwhelmed, and we are hurting ourselves.
- All children in our region deserve the same amount of funding.
- The centers need to be more equipped.
- Majority of the Grants out are set up to be made competitive.
- Certain communities that do not meet the enrollment criteria but have marginalized families in certain communities that need the services.

2. What has your experience been in ECEC?

- Our Action Council has served as teachers, admin, coordinators, and management positions.
- It has been a rollercoaster of highs and lows, we can see the growth and mere attention that has been given locally, regionally, and nationally.
- Families in need of support for selves/siblings around outside services (e.g., OT, Speech, mental health) – closest family therapy/behavioral therapy is in Pilsen.
- Needs that go beyond the capabilities of school staff and access to resources related to housing food, security, etc.
- Experience in providing training and technical assistance to the school district and community programs.
- Observed the need for more PFA programs, home visiting programs, and EL programs.

3. What is one thing that is working well/ what is not?

- Growth from children and families (many families are returning as parents and employees)
- Some districts are doing very well with staffing and training to meet the needs of marginalized families, but there are many families still experiencing multiple barriers to access, particularly



in communities that do not have large populations of immigrants and families with incomes significantly below FPL.

- I see dedicated staff – however, we do need more programs to fill the need.
- There are always opportunities to do more outreach to families.
- Why are you not providing services and there are families that are on the waiting list? Families aren't getting the services that they deserve.
- The large agency would write for the grant and try to collab with the smaller agency but you in the end must do what they tell you.
- We are not using the resources to the capacity they should be used.
- Issues with staffing.
- We are using these different funding streams to pay the staff the money that they deserve (Most centers do not have the funding to pay the staff what they deserve).
- There are a lot of programs, but the money is not following them (The total education systems particularly in our district schools).
- When teachers get in trouble the principal place the teachers in Pre-K or kindergarten classes, and they do not have the right training to do their job effectively.
- The teachers and paraprofessionals need training (The paraprofessionals need to be culturally aware of the children and families).
- The schools always place Pre-K and bilinguals last.
- No diversity in PFA.
- Tired of hearing the districts saying they do not have enough money
- The only way teachers get the best pay is if they get layered funding.

4. What improvements would you like to see?

- More bilingual social workers, nurses, speech pathologists, and other special education providers in schools/centers
- Funding to provide more programs and opportunities for staff to continue their education.



- More access to community resources, higher levels of ongoing coaching and training in culturally and linguistically responsive practices, increased number of PFA and PI slots for families meeting eligibility criteria, consistent communication, and information marketed to families.
- Our communities should be working together as a whole, our families are supposed to be at the center, and they are being affected negatively by this.

Decisions made: Brainstorm ways to create change.

Next Steps: To continue to come up with ways to support our families within the community.

6:10 pm: Overview of Birth to Five and Cook County South (20mins)

Notes: Give the Council an update on Birth to Five and a better understanding of where we are now. **Lead by Ashonti Jackson (Regional Council Manager)**

Decisions made: How do we work with families and meet their needs?

Next Steps: Reach out to communities that need the most assistance.

6:30 pm: Council Best Practices (20 mins)

Notes: Develop Council Best Practices

Review Meeting Times and Dates

Lead by Ashonti Jackson (Regional Council Manager)

- This is a safe place.
- Come as you are.
- Show respect.
- You can debate but please don't demand.
- Listen before speaking.

Decisions made: Next Action Council Meeting November 16, 2022, 4:30-6:30 pm at Lansing Public Library

Next Steps: To come up with more best practices.



6:50 pm: Closing (10 mins)

Notes: Open Space for Additional Questions or Concerns

Lead by Ashonti Jackson (Regional Council Manager)

Decisions made: Confirmed next Action Council Meeting date and time.

Next Steps: Brainstorming on how we can support our families.

Follow-up/Next Steps: Send follow-up information to Action Council Members regarding the next meeting. Check to see if there are any questions, comments or concerns.