

## **MEETING NOTES**

### **Region 1-B-C Action Council Meeting**

**Location: Lansing Public Library, 2750 Indiana Ave, Lansing IL, and Virtual over Zoom**

**Date & Time: November 16, 2022; 4:30 pm-6:30 pm**

Council Members Present: Michelle Zurita-Sharpe, Janis Jones, Billy Hubbert, Adelia Brienzo, Felicia McBride, Elizabeth Rodgers, Janice Martin, Miya Lewis  
Council Members Absent: Joyce Scott, Kelly Burke, Marlene Christ, Sharhianna Fulce, Rochelle Golliday, and Kimberly Sawyer

4:30 pm: Welcome and Ice Breaker (15 mins)

Notes:

- Quick Introduction of Council Members and 1-B-C Team
- Icebreaker- What was your favorite childhood pastime?  
Action Council Members' responses were playing outside, riding bikes, double dutch, and going to the park.
- What food are you looking forward to eating on Thanksgiving?  
Action Council Members' responses were banana pudding, turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce, mac and cheese, and leftovers.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:45pm: Developing Community Agreements and Best Practices (30mins)

Notes:

- Council members were given the initial agreement that all voices and experiences will be respected.
- We were able to discuss community agreements, likes, and dislikes.

Decisions Made: The document was emailed to members and changes can be added at any time needed.

Next Steps: Council Members agreed with the community agreements, and we will make sure we review the agreements throughout our meetings every few meetings.



### 5:15pm: “Just Listen” Teambuilding Activity (45min)

#### Notes:

- Council Members discussed words or phrases that resonated with them after watching a video by Steve Zwolak.
- Council Member responses:
- All behavior has meaning.
- Early trauma has an impact on long-term term health.
- Brain research shows that the first 5 years of life are the most critical time of brain development.
- We can influence a generation in 5 years.
- If we want to change society, we must change the way we teach our younger children and support staff.
- Every day is a phenomenon
- Preschool-age children are expelled 3 times more than any other grade.
- We must help teachers understand who they are.
- What are teachers seeing through their lens?
- We need to host families where they are.
- Our environment is so explosive today.
- We must teach the soul and heart first, not the head.
- Billy says that they give jobs for PreK classes to anyone with a high school diploma and it makes people who really want the job not have an available spot.
- It’s about the children, she likes to spoil her staff. Teachers teach who you are.
- Teachers sometimes forget, so getting frustrated with them doesn’t solve anything (angry love).
- Understanding their temperament.
- When you have a team identifying who can take on who.
- Elizabeth thought this was awesome, it was from a male perspective, he picked up on so many things that educators have been thinking, and he has so much passion behind it. It’s not about just having a job; you must have passion behind it. You don’t benefit a lot for yourself, you get to cherish and love the angels whom you are impacting.
- The state of IL requirement was the worst in the early 70s.
- You only need a few credit hours, and you are good to go. The licensing standards need to be reviewed.



- Some centers are just hiring anyone.
- Our state has never invested in the children early enough.
- Adelia-when traumatized teachers are teaching traumatized children. They are not being properly trained. Not enough heart work. Self-work is a must. You have dysregulated adults trying to regulate children. We need support in emotional support for children (mental health). It's expected of you to do more than 8 hours. Who is supporting the teachers? There is not enough prep for teachers to understand and respect different languages. Sometimes their own biases come out.
- Felicia appreciates what the speaker said ECEC can do for a generation.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: Action Council will continue to come up with ways to impact the families and the community when it comes to creating change in ECEC.

6:00pm: Available training for Action Council Members (10 Mins)

Notes:

- Action Council Members were made aware of the training that is available through Illinois Action for Children.
- On-Demand Foundational Training is listed below:
  - Early Childhood Education and Care Overview
  - Racial Equity in Planning and Assessments
  - Community Systems Development Overview
  - Data & Asset Maps
  - Parent & Community Engagement
  - ECEC Facilities
  - ECEC Workforce

Decisions Made: The available training was emailed to Action Council Members prior to our meeting.

Next Steps: Action Council Members will complete the training at their convenience.

6:10pm: Selection of additional council members (10 mins)

Notes:

- Ashonti Jackson (Regional Council Manager) discussed with the Action Council what the processes look like with selecting additional Action Council Members.



- Adelia and Janice volunteered to help with the selection of new Action Council Members.

Decisions Made: An email was sent to Adelia and Janice to discuss the next steps.

Next Steps: Set up a time and Date for the selection process

6:20pm: Closing (10 mins)

Notes:

- Overview of upcoming Meeting topics
- Next Council Meeting
- Change to Location for January – March 2023
- Address any Parking Lot Questions

Decisions Made: Action Council discussed the next meeting date and time will be Zoom to better fit everyone's schedule.

Next Steps: Find a location to have Action Council Meetings starting in January 2023.

**Next Meeting**

December 6, 2022, Virtual Zoom Meeting 5:00-7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting