



MEETING NOTES

Region 33 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 12/7/22- 4:00-5:30pm

Council Members present:

Kara Bigger, Amy Fullerton, Miranda Gullberg, Rhonda Hillyer, Gorette Kupa, John Mabon, Lisa Medina-Foshay, Peter Schwartzman, Roy Van Meter, Tara Case, Pam Gaither, Anthony Law, Jodi Scott

Council Members absent:

Erin Brown-Powell, Malia Owens, Scott Rasso, Mary Reed, Kim Stickell, Josh Gibb, Amy Gipe, Esther Ogunrinde

4:00pm: Welcome

Notes:

- 1) Recording Notification and Consent
- 2) Icebreaker- What are you grateful for? What's the farthest you've traveled?
Grand Children-Health/Puerto Vallarta, Family- Little Wapan Mexico, Health & Family-Brazil, Family-Italy, Wonderful Support System- San Diego, Week-Old Grand baby- Paris, Family & Community- St. Petersburg, Florida, Life in General-Look for Blessings- Japan, Thankful for seeing brother- Ukraine, Family- San Diego, To God & for Health- Dubai & Atlanta, Family/Health-Finland

- 3) Data to Review:

*https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/Priority%20Populations%20Recommendation_Final_Approved.pdf

*<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Housing-Insecurity-Custom.pdf>

*McKinney Vento- Video & Regional Spreadsheet

[\(55\) McKinney-Vento \(Homeless\) Teacher & School Staff Training - YouTube](#)

*Countries & Languages represented in our Region

Decisions made: N/A



4:20pm: Questions & Discussion (45 minutes)

Notes:

1) What does this information tell us about our region?

- *Diversity is increasing.
- *Our priority populations are increasing both as groups and individuals within those groups.
- *As gaps are filled- more gaps appear.
- *Language and cultural barriers create obstacles to acceptance by established communities.
- *It is important to share positive images.
- *Advantages and Disadvantages depend on one's viewpoint.
- *Supporting integration within our community and between communities fosters improvement.

2) What do you notice about the location of different racial/ethnic families, location of early childcare providers, priority populations, etc.?

- *Providers are in the right geographical locations compared with the location of most priority populations.
- *More providers are needed.
- *Priority Population of Rural Families have few to no providers.

3) What other information has been gathered about priority populations from talking with organizations and agencies?

- *Organizations that may provide more information about priority populations:
 - Immigration information, DCFS, Jamison's, Loving Bottoms, FISH Food Pantry, Hygiene Pantry, Salvation Army, Housing Authority, WiC Nurses, Eagle View Health Systems
- *Information that has been gathered from Organizations:
 - WiC has been underutilized due to COVID
 - Mobile medical unit stopped coming to Galesburg due to lack of involvement and funding.
 - Awareness of services is an obstacle in priority populations.
 - 1st Generation opportunities are difficult to take advantage of when there is no viewable model.
 - Gorette Kupa example of leadership in our community is a model for overcoming obstacles.



4) What data is missing or unavailable on these priority populations?

- *Food insecurity
- *Trauma (Increased from COVID/Isolation)
- *Mental health
 - Under-reported
 - Families are afraid of asking for help
 - +sparks an investigation from DCFS
 - +Due to “mandated reporting” requirements
 - Arrested individuals
 - +Don’t tell police they have children
 - +Will lose children to system
- *Home visiting is a solution
 - Home Visitors are facing increased safety risks

5) Are there programs in place to support migrant, immigrant, refugee families? If so, what are those?

- * “ESL for adults” and Citizenship programs exist in Knox and Warren County
 - Operating at capacity
 - More instructional levels are needed to accommodate beginners-advanced skill levels
 - Child care is an obstacle for participants.
 - More teachers are needed to offer more levels
 - Budgets limit offerings
 - Gorette Kupa has contacted Cheri Bustos & Tammy Duckworth.
 - Family Literacy offered for families with children up to 17 years old
 - Providers include: Smithfield (Tyson), ROE #33
- *Parenting Classes- ROE #33
- *Economics Classes
- *Family Literacy Classes
- *Citizenship Classes-1st Congregational Church offers Citizenship & ESL

Are they located in a place that can easily reach these families/communities?

- *Services are located in the communities where the priority populations are located



6) COVID contributed to higher rates of unemployment and increased the number of people experiencing homelessness. What impact did COVID have on families in our Region?

- *Homelessness has increased in the Region.
- *Families have moved away from the area
- *Families have moved in together
- *Families have moved in with grandparents.
- *Living arrangements have been altered due to several factors:
 - Substance abuse
 - Mental health
 - Economics/Financial need

What services/supports were implemented to help those impacted?

- *The City of Galesburg:
 - Added a Warming Center
 - Moratorium on Gas/Water/Electric shut offs
 - Increased Food through Expansion of Food Pantry
- *ROSC- connected area services
- *More money provided on Link Card

Have those services/supports remained in place?

- *Lockdowns due to COVID response:
 - Eliminated some services
 - Put services on hold
 - Families are not reaching out for services as much as before lockdowns
 - Internet limitations play a role in decreased access and usage
 - Shutoffs of utilities have resumed

7) How do we prioritize the order of Focus Groups?

*While considering ACTION and Family Council representation of Priority Populations a survey of ACTION Council members present in the December meeting, the following order has been created for seeking additional input:

- A) Single Mothers
- B) Single Fathers
- C) Special Needs Families
- D) Foster Families
- E) Families just over the CCAP limit
- F) People who work non-traditional hours
- G) Immigrant Families- Languages?
- H) Grandparents/extended families/Guardian Households
- I) Mental Health Providers



- J) Faith-based Community
- K) Recovery Families
- L) Politicians
- M) Business Owners
- N) Families of Incarcerated

Decisions made: Begin forming focus groups based on above order.

Next Steps: See Below

5:00pm: Next Steps (15 minutes)

Notes:

- Next Meetings will be January-March, 2023
 - Groupings by Expertise/Interest/Geography
 - *4 volunteers sought to act as Group Leader- Set Time & Date
 - *Group reports out to Full ACTION Council at a Future Date
- Regional Manager will:
 - Send out Minutes with links to:
 - Shared Google Folder with ACTION Council Minutes and Data:
[Region 33 - Google Drive](#)
 - Follow Up as needed with individual Council members
- Begin Forming Focus Groups
- ACTION Council members will:
 - Be in Contact with their Small Group
 - Set Date & Time for Group Meeting (January)
 - Meet with Small Group and discuss questions

5:15pm: Meeting Adjourned