



MEETING NOTES

Region 34 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 11/18/22 10:00am-1:00pm

Council Members present: Dane Cruz, Maria Pizano, Bobbie Hinden, Jennifer Cordova, Jessica Medina, Joan Battley, Judy Armstrong, Kerry Stokes, Melissa Ferguson, Rosa Herrera, Martina Rocha, Treana Monroe, Dylan Olthoff, and Maria Colunga

Council Members absent: Anani Moy, Dr. Michael Karner, Natalie Udstuen, Jon Ashworth, Arnita Hodge, Lupe Rodriguez, Lauren McArdle, Janie Metzger, Jamie DiCarlo, Cheryl Caesar, Nicole Johnson, and Astrid Martinez

10:00am: Welcome, Review of Council Member Expectations, Community Agreements, and Introductions (35 min)

Notes: **Welcome and Introductions**

- Bobbie Hinden (Family Focus), Jennifer Cordova (Woodland School District #50), Jessica Medina (Peppermint Stick-Grayslake), Joan Battley (North Chicago Public Library), Judy Armstrong (Best- Round Lake KRC), Kerry Stokes (Children and Family Connections), Melissa Ferguson (YWCA Metropolitan Chicago), Treana Monroe (Kids Above All), Dylan Olthoff (State Rep Rita Mayfield's Office), and Maria Colunga (Round Lake School District 116),

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Review of Council Member Expectations**

- PowerPoint was presented by RCM Dane Cruz

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Review of Community Agreements**

- The following agreements were made.
- Judgement free zone,
- Don't speak over each other,
- Stay engaged, stay on topic,
- Respect others, end with clear next steps,



- Welcome new members (build bigger table),
- Be flexible.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

10:35am: Icebreaker/Team Building Activity (20 min)

Notes: Lake County Trivia

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

10:55am: Basic Overview of the Regional Scan (30min)

Notes: Presentation given by RCM Dane Cruz- on the 8 Sections of the Regional Scan

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

11:25am: Action Planning (60 min)

Notes: Givens

What: Regional Scan of Lake County, IL Region 34

When: Completed by May 2023

Where: Region 34

Who: Birth to Five Action Council- united team of volunteers from a variety of Backgrounds with a shared goal to improve ECEC in Lake County

Why: To Transform the Early Childhood Landscape in Region 34 (Lake County) to a better, simpler, and fairer system.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **When we are Successful, what does Victory look like?**

- Reduced the slot gap,
- Free or affordable daycare for all children birth to five,
- Affordable healthcare for all children birth to five,
- Refill the ECE teacher ranks with equitable salaries,
- Improved the education/Birth to Five landscape,
- Accommodating parent preference,
- Greatest collaboration between families and communities,
- Access to ECE for all,



- Major increase in Lake County programs serving children from Birth to Five,
- New Head Start programs/home visiting programs in Lake County,
- New Lake County programs for young children reach diverse populations thanks to Birth to Five Action Council,
- Working parents have access to free and affordable childcare,
- Birth to Five helping all families with access to ECEC programs,
- Every child that wants a seat has a seat,
- All partners and providers working together,
- Best county in the state to raise children.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Current Reality**

- **Strengths-** The Action Council strengths are Variety of different Backgrounds/Expertise, Common Mission, lived experiences, roots in Lake County, Passion/Dedication/commitment, and flexible
- **Obstacles-** Funding for recommendations, size of the task, accurate data gathering, support from State Lawmakers, voices of underrepresented families.
- **Dangers-** Ensure there is always constant movement, the county should not wait on the state to make decisions, lack of high-quality childcare staff, the unknown, and ensuring steps are taken toward community and county needs
- **Benefits-** Reduce High School Dropout rates (established a foundational love for school), empower parents, creating a stronger community, Awareness of Early Intervention Services.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Commitments**

- The Action Council agreed on the following commitments: transparency/honest/trustworthy/enthusiasm,
- Be in for the long haul (committed),
- Community outreach throughout Lake County,
- Adapt to change,
- Execution of plan (for example complete foundational trainings),



- Have an open mind of other's experiences and cultures.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Action Steps**

- The following action steps were agreed on by the Action Council.
- Stay up to date on ECE news, participate (give your all),
- Complete trainings,
- Have meaningful conversations with families with children 0-5,
- Use parent's primary language, survey as many parents as possible,
- Be a listener and be flexible,
- Assign action committees with small but actionable items to accomplish and build from there,
- Collaborate with action council team members,
- Build relationships within council.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Calendar**

- The Action Council agreed on the following calendar: December-demographics and community collaboration, January-ECEC programs, slot gap, and parent engagement, February- Workforce and Facilities, March- Regional Scan Insights and Recommendations

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Review Demographic information for discussion at Next Action Council Meeting on December 16, 2022 @10 am (Virtual Only)