



MEETING NOTES

Region 35 Action Council Meeting

Location: Ottawa, IL

Date & Time: 11.10.2022 / 1:00 pm

Council Members present: Lynn Sheedy, Melissa Mital, Jackie Blackburn, Denise Garth

Council Members absent: Rich Faivre, Kira Pfeffinger, Derek Kilmartin

Start Time: (1:00pm) Welcome and Introduction Consent to Record

Notes: All approved / Meeting Virtual

Start Time: (1:05pm to 1:29pm) Introduction to Birth to Five Illinois Councils and goals

Notes: Reviewed PowerPoint data share slides then did follow up on the following questions

Start Time: (1:29pm to 2:38pm) Review data openly second time and applied the following questions to initiate insight and perspectives from Action Council

- **What does the data tell us about what our Region might need in the future? (For example, is there a large increase/decrease in the number of children 0-2 vs 3-5?) Will current services be sufficient to serve children in 1, 2, 5 years? Data share slide / Demographic Overview**
 1. The future of childcare services may increase.
 2. There is a feeling our region is currently behind on the sufficient needs of services in respect to the adaptation to diversity, teaching native languages, and having children kindergarten ready.
 3. On the optimistic side, we are seeing high school students aid with translating, making it clear internal resources are being used in schools.
 4. Financial institutions in the area are leading the way with diverse teaching and hiring within the community.
 5. Providers and schools have access to or the opportunity to use translation services such as AT&T language line in most centers and schools.



6. Due to being a largely rural area, transportation is foreseen to be an issue now and in the future.
- **Can families in our region who live at or below 100%, 185% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) afford early childhood care and education programs and services?**
 1. A change in culture is showing where grandparents are re-entering the workforce to help support children.
 2. Grandparents are picking up and dropping children to before / after school activities more so now than in the past.
 3. There is a question of, "Are we losing family support?"
 4. What do families need?
 5. Have regulations in licensing home daycare affected the number of providers becoming licensed in Illinois?
 6. Households are passing up jobs due to the lack of daycare for 2nd shift and 3rd shift jobs.
 7. Parents are choosing to stay home.
 - **What are the limits on childcare that affect a family's availability to work?**
 1. There are limited hours of childcare in the region due to licensing restrictions.
 2. Single family households are increasing.
 3. CCAP is not available to everyone due to the increase in minimum wage.
 4. Expansion of preschools has affected TCOC.
 5. Transportation is again pointed out to be an issue.
 - **Are there early childhood education and care providers missing from the list/map? Are there providers listed that are no longer open/providing support and services to children and families?**
 1. Non-licensed providers tend to go under the radar
 2. TCOC has limited space in LaSalle County
 3. The starting salary for Head Start staff appears to be inadequate due to a lack of staff. Action Council members will research this.
 4. Culture changes / Family assistance / Foster families
 5. Educational requirements for staff have caused known issues.



- **What impact did Covid have on early childcare providers in the region?**

1. SNAP lowered their FPL percent for eligibility which is currently through to be permanent
2. Providers searches include childcare locations no longer in business
3. Home providers are showing a capacity larger than the number of children they are caring for
4. Providers accepting subsidies do not receive pay when children are not in attendance. Covid caused income losses due to these absences
5. Minimum wage increased however Covid caused daycare closures taking away provider and center jobs

- **What information is missing, or would be helpful to better understand this data?**

1. Separate the centers from home providers in a graph to supply a better visual of what needs are missing.
2. Have we looked at other states for a comparison?
3. Is there a chart which would estimate the number of centers that have closed due to staffing issues and why?
4. Are children in foster family care included?
5. Available workforce. Must put ECEC in a better place
6. Job positions are unfilled. Why? Lack of care or cost of care?
7. Look into subsidy payments to families who provide care for other family members.
8. Is there a graph showing preschool openings available?

Start Time: (2:38pm to 2:42 pm) Conclusion

- Decisions made:

Next meeting-tentatively:

December 8th, 2022

Birth to Five Illinois: Region 35

Ottawa, Illinois

Follow Up/Next Steps:

The Regional Manager will send out meeting minutes through email and follow up with individual Council Members as needed.