



MEETING NOTES

Location: Ottawa, IL

Date & Time: 12.08.2022 / 1:00pm

Council Members present: Kira Lee Pfeffinger, Jackie Blackburn, Rich Faivre, Derek Kilmartin, Denise Garth

Council Members absent: Lynn Sheedy, Melissa Mital

Start Time: (1:00pm to 1:03pm) Welcome and Introduction-Consent to Record

Notes: All approved

Start Time: (1:03pm to 1:16pm) PowerPoint “Slot Gaps”

Notes: Reviewed PowerPoint, data share slides, and then did follow ups on the following questions:

Start Time: (1:16pm to 2:41pm)

Question and answers 1: What are your thoughts on the gap between the total number of children form 0-5 and the number of slots available in ECEC?

Notes:

- Covid-Early Intervention needs to be in the home and not by zoom.
- Early intervention has staffing issues.
- Children cannot get the services and there are not enough available staff.
- The gap is going to get greater.
- The staff turnover rate is high.
- There is a lack of head start locations.

Question and answers 2: Notice the gaps between publicly funded programs and the children eligible for the programs in the region. What do we notice about these statistics?

Notes:

- Federal poverty guidelines may be too regulated on qualifiers.
- The licensing process is cumbersome and difficult.
- The licensing regulations often overwhelm those going through the process.
- Children miss services due to transportation and staffing.
- If staffing is not an issue, then finding space for services is. There is no happy medium.
- Too many variables and “hoops to jump through.”



Question and answer 3: What are the drivers of the gap in child care in the region?

Notes:

- Transportation
- Low wages
- Qualified staff and space
- Regulations are too stringent.
- Fire code regulations are cumbersome.
- The ratio of students to teachers is a large factor for high turnover.
- The cost for parents is expensive.
- Data showing teacher staffing pre-covid and post-covid would clarify new gaps.
- Bringing the full process together as a whole for regulations to pass.

Question and answer 4: What data are missing that would be helpful to make a better analysis of the slot gap?

Notes:

- We do not know for sure the number of children home providers are caring for in ratio to the actual number of children their licensing is for.
- Restrictions in guidelines for home daycare have changed limiting the hours of care and the number of children a home provider can care for.
- An updated providers list would be helpful.
- Staffing prior to covid in comparison to after covid-updated providers list.

Question and answer 5: What other indicators should we consider alongside the slot gap?

Notes:

- Families are now providing child care so early intervention needs are difficult to meet.
- There is a generalized delay in development since covid for example with speech.
- A huge increase of special education referrals in the district and new students moving into the district causing districts to hire more staff.
- Private and public schools the same are showing an increased amount of stress among staff.



Question and answer 6: What might data tell us about what Region 35 might need in the future?

Notes:

- Data may show a need for higher teachers' pay or contain information referencing under appreciation.
- Transportation issues for this age group do not allow them to legally ride the public transportation provided to receive early intervention services.
- The need for increased wages for qualified teachers and providers may become apparent.
- The cost to build the classrooms to provide the services needed has increased.
- The changes in regulations for licensed providers have limited availability for families working second shift or multiple jobs.

Conclusion:

- Next meeting-tentatively:
January 12, 2023 @ 1pm
Birth to Five Illinois: Region 35
Ottawa, IL 61350

Follow-up/Next Steps:

Notes:

- Char will be providing information from the Family Council to the Action Council to clarify concerns.
- Research data for staffing pre-covid and post-covid will begin.
- We will be sharing parent engagement information that is full circle to assist upper management with assessing regular staff and to help them meet their needs.
- Email PowerPoint to Council members not present.