



Region 41 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 10/27/2022, 12:30pm-2:30pm

Council Members present: Sister M. Kateri, Lauren Jacobs, Kristy Smiley, Barbara Corby, Amy Knackstedt, Kyra Lakin, Aimee Villet, Heidi Elliott, Donna Dixon, Terri Mussatto

Council Members absent: Kristy Smiley, Veneta Wadlow

12:30 Group Introductions, Welcome Activity (15 min)

Notes:

- Member introductions completed. Members shared what Madison County is doing well for children and families.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

12:45 Community Agreements, Meeting Roles, Notes (5 min)

Notes:

- Community Agreements reviewed.
- Meeting roles established.
- Meeting notes reviewed with no changes.
- Shared Google Drive walk through completed.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

12:50 Selection Committee and Family Council Updates (5 min)

Notes:

- The Selection Committee reviewed five submissions with the majority recommending four be invited to join the Action Council.
- Family Council meeting held previous evening with members sharing thoughts about their role(s).
- January meeting to include Action Council and Family Council members.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: Regional Council Manager to onboard new members.



12:55 Demographic Data Update (20 min)

Notes:

- Questions from the last meeting addressed.
- We have early care and education desert areas.
- Reviewed School Information Systems (children enrolled in two programs simultaneously).
- Difference of three early care and education agencies (IECAM and Sunshine).

Decisions Made: Children's Home and Aid providing current child care enrollment.

Head Start providing current enrollment and will look at expanding home visiting.

Next Steps: Regional Council Manager to chart working family data differently.

1:15 Slot Gap Data (65 min)

Notes:

- Reviewed Household and Working Family data and Licensed and Publicly Funded Slot Gap data.
 - Approximately 13,000 enrollment slots in Madison County. Several programs have waiting lists. There is a significant slot gap in Madison County. Less of a slot gap for children three through five years of age than the birth through two-year-olds. Services for children ages birth through two years of age are lacking.
 - Screening and evaluation is important to direct families to services.
 - Do families know about all the resources available to them? How do they find out?
 - Early childhood acronyms are not family friendly. Verbiage used in program names are not family friendly (prevention initiative vs. early start).
 - Not all early care and education agencies have quality ratings.
 - Inequitable pay for licensed child care staff versus publicly funded staff (salary and benefits). State offers scholarships and salary assistance for some staff. The application process is not always easy.
 - Collaborations among differently funded programs is a challenge.



- There is a workforce crisis. We have new factories coming to Madison County. How will those employees find child care so they can work?
- What are families doing when there are no early care and education options?
- What is the current waiting list status?
- Families are losing their jobs due to lack of early care and education options.
- ExceleRate expanding the services to more child cares is a benefit. Do families have a choice when we have waiting lists and early care and education deserts?
- It would be helpful if there was one point of entry and one initial referral. Madison County has a collaborative that is focused on the use of the Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS). We will learn more about IRIS next month.
- Early assessments and screenings are not consistently used.
- While some programs are receiving funds to expand, others are not. This limits early care and education options.
- Staff need more training.

Decisions Made: Surveys, interviews, and focus groups will be useful when answering the above-mentioned questions.

Next Steps: Action Council members to recruit workforce development representatives.

2:20 Meeting Schedule (5 min)

Notes:

- Future meeting schedule discussed.

Decisions Made: Two specific Thursdays in November and December will be avoided.

Next meeting scheduled for November 17, 2022, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm.

Next Steps: Regional Administrative Support to send out meeting information.

2:25 Closing (5 min)

Notes:

- Council members shared one thing they will share with colleagues about today's work.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



Follow-up/Next Steps:

- Collect information to answer questions about Demographic and Slot Gap data.
- Search for Action Council member representing workforce development, unhoused population, and Spanish-speaking population, preferably male.