



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 41 Action Council Meeting

**Date & Time: 11/17/2022, 12:30pm-2:30pm**

Council Members present: Kristy Smiley, Amy Knackstedt, Aimee Villet, Kristy Smiley, Veneta Wadlow, Christine Coleman, Tim Rhymer, Wendy Phillips, Barbara Corby, Heidi Elliott

Council Members absent: Sister M. Kateri, Donna Dixon, Esther Beard, Amber Mezo, Lauren Jacobs, Michelle Wright, Terri Mussatto

#### **12:30 Welcome and Introductions (10 min)**

Notes: Council members and Region 41 team introductions completed. New members welcomed.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **12:40 Community Agreements, Meeting Roles, October Notes (5 min)**

Notes:

- Community Agreements shared and agreed upon.
- Meeting Roles established.
- October 27, 2022, meeting notes reviewed.

Decisions Made: No new Community Agreements to add at this time.

Next Steps: N/A

#### **12:45 On -Demand Foundational Trainings (15 min)**

Notes:

- Council members invited to register for online [trainings](#).
- Google Drive walk through completed with new Demographic, Slot Gap data, and funding resource highlighted.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: Council members to explore new documents in shared Google Drive.

#### **1:00pm Break (5 min)**



### **1:05pm Community Systems Work (75 min)**

#### Notes:

- Collaborations
  - Partner Plans Act Collaboration Directory is in the shared Google Folder.
  - Madison County Coordinated Intake is the recognized early care and education Madison County specific collaboration.
    - This Collaboration presented to the Action Council.
- Community Groups
  - Local: Early Childhood Forum, Local Leadership Team – Illinois State Systemic Improvement Plan, Collinsville Community Inclusion Team, LANS Madison 12, Children’s Home and Aid Advisory Board, Latino Roundtable, Southwest Advocates for Youth Services (SWAYS)
  - Statewide: Illinois Preschool Inclusion Advisory Group, EC LRE Stakeholders Consortium, Early Childhood Funding Commission
- Local Community Partnering Agencies
  - SIUE Speech and Language Department, Alton Memorial Hospital, Alton Police Station, Alton Fire Department District, Alton School District, Anderson Health Care, Associated Pediatric Dentistry, Bethalto Police Station, Bethalto School District, Birth to Five Triad Collaboration, Bond Recovery, Boys and Girls Club of Bethalto, Catholic Charities, Child and Family Connections #21, Children’s Home and Aid, Collinsville Fire Department District, Collinsville Police Station, Collinsville School District, Community Care and Share, East Alton School District, Edwardsville Junior Service Club, Edwardsville School District, Good Samaritan House, Godfrey Rotary, Granite City Police Department, Granite City Fire District, Granite City School District, Hartford School District, Highland School District, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Immanuel United Methodist Church Edwardsville, Land of Lincoln Legal Services, Madison County Community Development, Madison County Housing Authority, Madison School District, Maxine’s Daycare, Partnership for Drug-Free Community, Ready Readers, Refugee, Region 1 Special Education District, Roxana School District, Salvation Army, Six Mile Library, Soup and Share Collinsville, Triad School District, Troy Early Childhood Center, Twigs, United Way, University of Illinois Nutrition Program, Venice School District, Venice Township Hall (Mobile Market), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants,



and Children (WIC), William Be Dell ARC, Woodriver Hartford Elementary District

- Planning Grant
  - Birth to Five Illinois is accepting grant applications for the Planning Grant. Applicants are interested in starting a collaboration in their community.
- Targeted questions explored
  - Are there areas of our Region with no early childhood community collaborations? Our County has several community groups that meet on a regular basis to improve care for children and families. There are some areas of Madison County, in the early care and education deserts, where no active collaborations exist.
  - What questions should be asked of local collaboration leaders in our Region? It is useful if collaborations have members from across sectors. It would be helpful to know which sectors are represented. It would also be useful to know which parts of the County have little to no early care and education community group opportunities.
  - What is limiting us from having County-wide collaboration participation? Due to staff shortage, it is difficult for community members to participate. It would be helpful if there was a shared document with all collaborations and community groups. Funding the work is also a barrier. Funding impacts sustainability. Early care and education deserts likely have little to no collaborations and/or community groups that meet on a regular basis. There are County-wide early childhood groups that meet on a regular basis and hold hybrid meetings.
  - What other information do we need or know? A system is needed to house who has a waiting list and/or openings that is updated on a regular basis. There are few child care centers that are offered to participate in and/or know of collaborative community groups. Referral and intake should be shared. We have several child care centers in the County with large waiting lists. We need more support for staff that support children with disabilities. We should explore data regarding staff shortages.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: Council members to add to the Community Associations and Groups.



### **2:15pm Family Council Update (5min)**

Notes:

- Up to ten new Family Council members.
- They are excited and getting to know each other.
- Welcomed five new Council members.
- Spent the last two meetings going over roles and responsibilities, advocacy, and resources.
- Leaning into what their responsibilities, roles, and how they can assist with the Regional Scan.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: Next meeting scheduled December 8, 2022, from 6pm-8pm.

### **2:20pm Upcoming Events and Meetings (5 min)**

Notes:

- Focus groups and interviews will be scheduled starting in January 2023.
- Virtual County Hall will be held January 5, 2023, from 12pm-1pm.
- Meet and Greet at Lewis and Clark Community College on November 29, from 3pm-5pm
- Next Action Council meeting on December 8, 2022, from 12:30pm-2:30pm
  - Topic: Priority population for Madison County
- Action Council Meetings scheduled for January 12, 2023, from 12:30pm-2:30pm and January 26, 2023, from 12:30pm – 2:30pm, both via hybrid format

### **2:25pm Final Thoughts and Take Aways (5 min)**

Notes:

- Members and Birth to Five Illinois staff are excited to work collaboratively to make needed changes in Madison County.
- Council members encouraged to help with identifying community individuals and groups to interview and survey. Members encouraged to assist with identifying focus groups.
- Members have been able to provide more current data that is much appreciated.
- Reminder to sign up for the County news and updates via the County [website](#).
- Photo retake of Council members wanted to post on social media platforms.
- Video Release Form sent to new Council members. Link provided to members to submit online (<https://www.birthtofiveil.com/photo>).

### **2:30pm Adjourn**