



MEETING NOTES

Region 47 Action Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: November 15, 2022, 10:00 am

Council Members present: Andrea Cossey, Kimberly Crump, Rachael DeSpain, Maggie Fern, Lisa Lilja, Diana Merdian, Diane Lynn Ott, Lois Meisenheimer, Dr. Joe Mullikin, Kris Noble, Beth Smaka, Monica Wolfley,
Council Members absent: Liz Buckwalter, Anji Garza, Dr. Tara Kristoff

10:00am Welcome & Facilitator Introductions (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Abby Hoskins, Region 47 Council Manager, Lois Meisenheimer, Sauk Valley STARS Chair, Stephanie King, Region 47 Family and Community Engagement specialist, Isabel Cano, Region 47 Administrative Support

10:10am Council Introductions & Icebreaker Activity (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Members introduced themselves and participated in a team-building exercise.
- Andrea Cossey MSW, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant for 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care; Kimberly Crump, Healthy Families Illinois Program Coordinator for Sinnissippi Centers; Rachael DeSpain, Tri-County Opportunities Council Head Start Program Director, Maggie Fern, Recruitment, Retention, Referral and Outreach Specialist for 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care; Lisa Lilja, Director of Dreaming Tree Preschool/Open Sesame Children's Learning Centers; Diana Merdian, Whiteside County Parent; Diane Lynn Ott, Owner/Operator of family childcare; Dr. Joe Mullikin, Principal of Highland Elementary School; Kris Noble, Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, Beth Smaka, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at Sauk Valley Community College; Monica Wolfley, Parent Coordinator/Program Coordinator PFA for Dixon School District

10:20am Introduction to Birth to Five Illinois, Council Purpose & Member Expectations (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Presentation and overview of Birth to Five Illinois's mission, vision, and values.



- Discussion of the council's purpose, member expectations, re-engaging in previous work and future work.

10:30am Community Agreements (15 minutes)

Notes:

- Discussion on what community agreements are, their importance in council work, and setting a common framework for the work.
- Participants held discussions in breakout groups and contributed their thoughts using a Jamboard. Member reconvened in a large group to decide upon a final list of agreements.
- Decisions made: Community Agreements that will guide Action Council work.

10:45am Re-engaging with the Work and Moving Forward (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Shared Region 47 Google Drive for agendas, data, and other resources for council members.
- Gave council members information and the link to Plan Partner Act's website for optional Early Childhood Foundational Trainings.
- Work done over the previous year through Community Based Planning with Illinois Action for Children was recognized and discussed. Discussion of how Action Council will re-engage with the work, bring new perspectives, and expand on topics still needing review took place.
- Discussed end-of-meeting survey to gather input for future meetings, questions on using Google Drive, or other general questions.

Next Steps: Prepare Community Agreements for the next meeting and upload them to Google Drive. Region 47 team will provide council members will data and questions to review prior to the December meeting.

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- Council members will complete the survey to ensure members have the resources needed to participate in meetings effectively.
- The Birth to Five team will review surveys and follow up as needed.

Next Meeting:

Date: December 13th, 2022

Time: 10:00 am-11:00 am