



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 49 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: October 5, 2022 – 1:30-3:00pm

Council Members present: April Berthiaume, Danen Busch, Beverly Clark, Janet Hill, Tess Hurt, Kate Jennings, Julie Larson, Cindy Mahr, Lindsay Meeker, Tammy Muerhoff, James Richardson Jr., Tiera Teague, Michael Terry  
Council Members absent: Marcy Mendenhall, Stephanie Rhodes, Marcia Seabolt

#### **Introductions & Review Group Agreements**

Notes: All members are satisfied with the list of Group Agreements developed in 09/22/2022 Action Council meeting.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Practice Group Agreements throughout future Action Council meetings.

#### **Selection Committee Volunteers**

Notes: Beverly Clark, Kate Jennings & Lindsay Meeker volunteer for Selection Committee.

Decisions made: Volunteers will come together to review new Action Council Interest Forms.

Next Steps: Regional Council Manager will facilitate a conversation between Selection Committee members to coordinate a date and time to review Interest Forms.

#### **Missing Category Representatives from Action Council**

Notes: Action Council is lacking members from the faith community, members who are bilingual or multilingual, and members who represent a family child care setting.

Decisions made: Action Council needs representation from these groups to diversify perspectives.

Next Steps: Regional Council Manager and Action Council members will continue to share the Action Council Interest Form with individuals who meet these categories.



## Qualities of Region 49

Notes: Used Mentimeter to share assets within Region 49.



Next Steps: Leverage established assets to contribute to the work of Birth to Five Illinois.

## Review of Qualitative and Quantitative Data

Notes: Presented IECAM data and layover maps indicating early childhood services available across Region 49. Presented Risk & Reach Report. Discussed reactions to data and points to consider when continuing this work.

Observations made:

- Even split of 0-3 year old and 3-5 year old population in Region 49.
- Community need far exceeds available services.
- Region 49 is funded for a low number of Early Head Start slots.
- Total child care slots amount to roughly 1/3 of 0-5 year old population in Region 49.
- PFA funding provides ½ day of ECEC – need funding for second ½ of day.
- Services are hard to reach; families unaware of available resources.
- Urban vs. Rural areas.
- Discussed percentages of the Federal Poverty Level per family size.
- Need teased out data to understand special education services – does this number include ADA requirements of licensed child care and those practicing inclusive child care?
- Braided funding; this needs to be streamlined to allow ECEC programs to prioritize the care and services provided to children.
- Are Illinois families relocating to states that offer more robust ECEC and ECSE services?
- Identified funding gaps; children slipping through the cracks in the ECEC structure.
- MTSS Model – ECSE: new components to share.
- Head Start & PFA: risk-based assessment.
- Funders identified: IDHS CCAP, Head Start/PFA, ISBE, IDEA

Next Steps: Utilize this data to locate early childhood programs and prioritize the needs of children in Region 49.



### **Goals of Region 49 Action Council**

Notes: Discussed what ECEC system would ideally look like in 10 years.

Goals noted:

- Affordable child care; child care staff are absorbing the cost of care via low wage.
- Children will not slip through cracks in ECEC structure.
- Families have access to necessary services – “no wrong door”
- Children are kindergarten ready – school success=strong workforce.
- ECEC professionals will be compensated and recognized for their work.
- Licensed capacity of child care will be in balance with necessary workforce.
- Increase in government investment in children aged 0-5 years.
- No division in CCAP providers & privately funded providers.
- Investment from various industries in Region 49.
- Stable ECEC infrastructure.
- Streamline a broken and complicated system.

Next Steps: Action Council will continue to create a vision for the ECEC system to best serve the 0-5 year old population of Region 49.

### **Discussions to Note**

- ~\$2000 annual investment per child 0-5 years; ~\$8000 annual investment per child K-12
- CCR&R notes ~40% increase in CCAP applications from 2021 (Region 49 is one of seven counties served by CCR&R of Midwestern Illinois).
- Action Council members will have access to IAFC recorded Birth to Five training series.

Next Meeting

Date: October 19, 2022

Time: 1:30 – 3:00pm

Location: BridgePoint 485