



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 49 Action Council Meeting

**Date & Time: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 – 1:30-3:00pm**

Council Members present: April Berthiaume, Melissa Gravert, Janet Hill, Tess Hurt, Kate Jennings, Cindy Mahr, Lindsay Meeker, James Richardson Jr., Marcia Seabolt, Michael Terry

Council Members absent: Danen Busch, Beverly Clark, Andrea Flannery, Julie Larson, Marcy Mendenhall, Tammy Muerhoff, Stephanie Rhodes, Tiera Teague, Lisa Williams

#### **Introducing Focus Groups**

Notes: Emily Cummings shared the targeted groups for interviews and focus groups.

- Early Childhood Mental Health Professionals
- Family Child Care Providers
- Local Business Leaders/HR Leaders
- Rural Families
- Foster/Adoptive Parents
- Young Parents in School/Teen Parents
- Refugee & Immigrant Families
- Families Experiencing Homelessness

Decisions Made: Add LGBTQ+ Families and Dual-Language Families

#### **Family Council Update**

Notes: Angelica Villarreal shared the progress of the Family Council, mirroring the Action Council's notes of lack of ECEC in rural areas, non-traditional hours of care, and how the lack of child care may impact a household.

#### **Barriers Making ECEC Inaccessible**

Notes: Action Council members brainstormed the factors that make ECEC inaccessible to families.

- Staff Shortage
  - Low pay, huge responsibility
- Background Check Waiting Period
  - Prospective staff find alternative employment
  - Limited days/times/locations to be fingerprinted



- Lack of Quality Care at Times Needed
- Rising CCAP Reimbursement Rates
  - Unintended consequence – impacting CCAP ineligible families
- CCAP Staff Shortage
  - Extended processing times
  - Expanded eligibility to 225% FPL
    - Unintended consequence – infrastructure not prepared for influx of applications

## Data Review

### 1) Workforce Demographics

Notes: Action Council members reviewed the workforce demographics of Region 49 and made note of remarkable statistics.

- Pay rates do not equal the rates of education for ECEC professionals.
- Very few multi-lingual providers.
  - Families are caring for one another's children.
- DCFS licensing process is challenging.
  - More challenging for individuals speaking languages other than English.

### 2) The Slot Gap

- Licensed versus License-Exempt Child Care Programs
- Preschool for All (PFA) is a part-day program.
- There is no incentive or attraction to open ECEC programs.
  - Challenging
  - Expensive
- Programs must enroll preschool (3-5 year old) to offset the cost of infant/toddler (0-2 year old) care.
- Clarifying capacity per age in child care center versus family child care home.

### 3) CCAP, Quality, Early Intervention

- True cost of care – Lindsay Meeker to follow up with information.
- Low amount of IEPs in publicly funded ECEC programs.
- Noting speech delay versus other disability.



### **Data Review: What Stands Out?**

Notes: After reviewing Region 49 data, Action Council members were asked to share what stands out to them or what is being taken away from this Action Council meeting.

- Families need advocates!
- Children need accessible screening.
- Early Intervention services are limited.
- The ECEC system is complex.
- Connecting children to services is a group effort – parent, ECEC provider, service providers (pediatricians, etc.).
- Level of staff education is interesting – are CDAs prevalent within Region 49?

Next Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 – 1:30-3:00PM

Location: BridgePointe 485 – 1 Montgomery Dr. – Moline, IL 61265