



MEETING NOTES

Region 50 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 12/06/22, 9:00am-11:00am

Council Members present: Sheri Kraus, Gina Ruther, Chinita King, Jessica Seger, Florence Cheers-Lawrence (alternate for Carolyn Jason), Kaelin Richardson, Shamyra Brown

Council Members absent: Gina Harding, Janice Moenster, Jen Knepper, Brenda Crisp, Mark Eichenlaub, Kendall Perry, LaToya Greenwood, Angela Fraley, Regina Greer

Featured Speakers: Terri Mussato and Kaelin Richardson

Staff: Stephanie Herling, Shameka Brown, Tabitha Luczak

9:00am: Welcome & Introductions to Collaborations Discussion (15min)

Notes:

- Council member's introductions completed, welcomed new members.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

9:15am: LIC Collaboration - (30min) Terri Mussatto

Notes:

- Terri Mussatoo, the Manager of Child and Family Connections Number 21, is also the Local Interagency Council (LIC) Coordinator. Terri provided the council with an overview of the LIC and answered questions.
- The mission of the LIC is to provide Child Find activities, public awareness, and provide recruitment efforts.
- The LIC works to provide professional development and workshops to increase awareness and current trends. The LIC provides provider recruitment efforts for therapists interested in Early Intervention.
- The LIC is a collaboration of families, community agencies, and providers supporting families with children from birth to five years.



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- The LIC group includes local school districts, providers, community partners, and parents covering St. Clair, Madison, Monroe, and Randolph counties.
- In her experience/opinion, St. Clair County has good collaboration however as a new professional or someone just entering the community it can take two to four years to know all the different meetings, supports, and collaborations that are available because there is no single point of entry that information can be gathered from.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps:

- Identify barriers to attending and knowledge of meetings/collaborations in St. Clair County.
- Look at existing resources that can be updated to include resources across the county.

9:45am Break

10:00am Greater East St. Louis Early Learning Partnership (45 min)

Notes:

- The team is comprised of the Network Manager, Kaelin Richardson, and four Family Liaisons who go out to work with parents.
- Mission: To strengthen and sustain a high-quality prenatal to five early childhood system of programs, services, and supports.
- Covers the Greater East St. Louis Area which includes East St. Louis City, Washington Park, and parts of Cahokia Heights and Fairmont City.
 - Population is 96% Black/African American
 - Approximately 2,200 children under the age of five
- Vision: Every child in Greater East St. Louis has what they need to be successful in kindergarten.
- Mission: To connect families to high-quality early learning programs and services that help young children learn and grow.
- Data for Kindergarten Readiness
 - District 189 is consistently below the State data for the % of children ready for kindergarten.
 - Why: systemic racism and disinvestment in ESTL = barriers to access, limited employment opportunities, lower pay rates, and high levels of violence.
 - Hope: to increase readiness and close the game of Kindergarten Readiness.
- Working within the community to gain an understanding of Early Childhood Education and Care through a Feedback Perspective.
 - Increasing quality = healthier development, increased school readiness, and improved kindergarten success. Risk: barrier in any one of them limits the rest

- Challenges:
 - Family participation – hope to build trust, knowledge, and buy-in around the importance of Early Childhood Development.
 - Families are not met where they are- hope to explore methods to support teachers alongside families to build community buy-in.
 - Lack of funds- hope to develop shared fundraising to improve community knowledge, buy-in, and action.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps:

- Collaborate with the Greater East St. Louis Partnership to canvas, encourage, and support the community through Parent Cafes.
- Continued engagement with the Action Council from the partnership.
- Feedback to and from the partnership around family voice.
- Coordination of services in the Greater East St. Louis area to support the Partnership with feedback to the Action Council.

10:45am Report and Questions (15 min)

Notes:

- Curious if we could duplicate the work from the Greater East St. Louis Partnership across St Clair County to show data accurately across the County.
- Discussion around other groups:
 - Early Childhood Leadership Forum Meeting- a mix of professionals from multiple counties. Allows the ability to ask questions and share resources. Also, an email listserv that professionals can ask questions on at any time for others' input.
 - STAR NET Region IV, Community of Practices- professionals that are serving children with special needs.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: Reach out to Coordinated Intake, reaching out to Rachel Linzy with Comprehensive Behavioral Health to find out more.

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- Region 50 would like to start spotlighting action and family council members on our Facebook page. If you would like to be included, please type up a short overview about yourself and why you joined this work.
- Next meeting, we will start to focus on priority populations. Please think about how your program provides services and supports to families who may be experiencing homelessness. What barriers are you hearing from families?

Next Meeting:

Date: December 13, 2022