



MEETING NOTES

Region 56 Action Council Meeting

Location: Virtual Zoom

Date & Time: December 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Recap Meeting

Council Members present: Hassan von Schlegell, Stephanie Thompson

Not in attendance: Cherita Tousson Bowens

Welcome, Introductions, and Social Event

Notes: Region 56 introduced themselves individually and explained their background in early childhood education and care, and reasons why they landed at Birth to Five Illinois. Region 56 asked our new members to introduce themselves as well. Each member introduced themselves individually. Each member explained why they joined the Action Council and that they want to help and contribute meaningfully.

Region 56 listed off the names of our Action Council Members who were not in the meeting, and their roles, titles, and organizations.

Community Agreements

Notes: Community Agreements were reviewed for our Region 56 Community Agreements.

Decisions Made: Action Council Members agreed on a few. The agreements were cell phone on vibrate, step out to take a phone call, use "I" statements, move up / move back, assume good intent, but accept responsibility for the impact, saying "ouch" when words hurt, mindful of body language, listen to understand, and name to stay, lessons leave. An additional to the community agreements were to "Be mindful of when others are speaking. Utilize the "raise your hand" option."

Next Steps: Region 56 will provide a board of Community Agreements for next meeting.

Updates



Notes: Keven started off with updates with Family Council, Events / Outreach, Elected Officials, ISBE Report, and Focus Groups.

Family Council: Our first Family Council Meeting was scheduled for December 15th, 2022. There were six in attendance, and we have five more interested in attending next meeting. The Family Council will meet every second Thursday at 5:00pm-7:00pm every month. Many different families are represented on the council, and all families have children under the age of eight years old, as well as some children with special needs. Interest forms are closing soon. It was expressed that if there are any families that may be still interested, that they would need them to fill out the form soon.

Region 56 requested that Action Council may have a connection / network to families, and to see if they are interested to joining the Family Council as well.

ISBE: ISBE Report information was conveyed to the Action Council. A question was provided to be answered and brainstormed within the council: What are the needs of our region? ISBE asked to identify our highest areas of need. Discussion was brought to the table, and inquires were addressed such as:

- An Action Council Member explained that they were passionate about Early Intervention, and the more awareness needs to be provided for the parents and the communities.
- There was mention about an item that wasn't shown on the list was an Active Shooter and Emergency Preparedness Training is not mentioned. The member mentioned that it is important that each district has a plan and a plan for individuals with disabilities as well.
- ALICE trainings for active shooters need to be redesigned for all types of classrooms, as well as individuals with disabilities. There needs to be more information on this matter.
- There needs to be uniformity across the state when it comes to levels of care regardless of what funding and ages. There needs to be more of a structure within those programs.
- An Action Council Member mentioned that the Early Intervention piece is a large part and very important to explore more in the future conversations.
- There was mention about half day programs and that we need to find ways to get our early childhood programs need to be more full day programs. It is hard for families to have a full-time job as a working parent and not be able to have a childcare program that is full day.



Focus Groups: Focus Group updates and information was shared with the Action Council.

- Information was shared to the council that Region 56 has our first connection with the Spanish Community Center and Grandparents caring for Grandchildren.
- Spanish Community Center Focus Groups start in January.
- More information will be sent to our Action Council Members on Focus Groups.
- Action Council Members were asked who is not at the table, who they have access to, and if they are willing to share their networks. Members were asked to connect with us via email to share their connections.

Events: Action Council Members were asked to share some community and outreach events with region 56 to attend. One date was shared:

- ADA last date to sign up is January 15th, 2023.

Elected Officials: The Region 56 team shared the connection with elected officials to the Action Council Members. Region 56 connected with three elected officials thus far. Region 56 asked the Action Council Members if they have any elected officials' connections to share with the region as well. Region 56 connected with:

- Congresswoman Lauren Underwood
- Senator Meg Loughran Cappel
- Senator Rachel Ventura

Region 56 requested that the elected officials also attend an Action Council Meeting as well.

Illinois Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding Report

Notes: Region 56 presented on the key findings about the current system. Explanation of Illinois underspending on early childhood education and care and having three agencies that cause confusion and undermines equity. Explanation of the parent and providers ongoing conflicting information.

Information on our current funding system presented. Explanation on how the funding system can be more equitable and streamlined and asked the council members on



how we can get there with how challenging it could be due to all our areas of different funding. Discussion amongst council members continued.

Data Review

Notes: Data review was presented. Topics that the state has asked region 56 to cover were shared. It was explained that next meeting the Action Council Members and Region 56 will discuss the demographics and regional overview.

Email handouts were given to each Action Council Member and housed in our shared google docs folder along with resources to share.

Meeting Schedule Discussion

Notes: Region 56 verified the next date.

Decisions made: The next meeting date will be Wednesday, January 18th, 2023, from 11:00am-1:00pm at the location of 2455 Glenwood, Joliet, IL 60435.

Next Steps: An email invite has been sent out to all members.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 18th, 2023 – 11:00am-1:00pm

Location: 2455 Glenwood, Joliet, IL 60435

Follow-up/Next Steps: Follow up emails will be sent out to each Action Council Member.