



MEETING NOTES

Region 9 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, December 8, 2022, 12 pm – 2 pm

Attendance:

Council Members present in person: Ha Young Choi, Kelly Russell, Brandi Granse, Rachel Charters, Lynn O'Dell, Tyler Renyolds,

Council Members present virtually: Lily Jimenez, Jonathan Woods, Nichole Kitchens, Marguerite Bailey

Council Members absent: Tonya Carter, Abbey Yoder, Donald Gill, Rachel Spencer, Brenda Eastham

Presenting: Caitlyn Scarbro

Zoom Point Person: Jackie Charles

Notes and Tech: Samantha Copeland

Welcome and Introductions: (30 minutes)

Round Table of Introductions and welcome of new council members Lily Jimenez, Jonathan Woods, Ha Young Choi

Review (20 minutes)

- Community Agreements
- Word Cloud from group discussion in meeting 2
 - Large Words: Change, Data, Lack

Icebreaker (20 minutes)

Q: "What would your top priority of change for Region 9 and Why?"

A: Variety of answers including:

- Affordable daycare/childcare.
 - One of the big complaints from families is that they no longer qualify for CCRS and can no longer afford care.
- Quality infant care, Cultural Competency



- removing barriers for otherwise qualified individuals Degree vs. Experience
- Rural lack of infant/toddler care
- Stable funding and ability to pay staff for sustainable programs
- Struggle to find substitutes.
- Accessible nutritional foods
 - The cost of food is up, and food pantries are low. They have started food pantries at sites to help fill in the gaps.
- Work childcare centers for hybrid working people.
- Mental health care for ages 3-5.
 - There is a gap in training leading to not enough staff.
- Engaging parent in family decision making, need more capacity, enveloping parents, and family perspective
- Traditional hours

Data Walk: (30 minutes)

Viewed charts based on IECAM data.

We pointed out that the race and ethnicity chart is based on under age 5 and all other charts are age 6 and under.

Reviewed that CDI was located in Ford County but was not counted there.

Here are the other items of discussion:

Overall there was a discussion of how data is skewed because it is based on where programs are funded.

The data is also skewed by who is reporting and when.

Notes:

- IECAM not accurate for Early Intervention program because grant paid to Joliet address
- IDHS- two programs in Champaign County but office for funding in Bloomington
 - Baby Fold
 - Children's Home and Aid
- Healthy Beginnings possibly not included in data. Privately Funded through Carle



- Children and Family Connections (CFC) includes Champaign, Ford, Vermillion, Mclean
- Numbers for Early Intervention programs do not include waitlist
- 60 people in services program for Head Start for Champaign
- The Council expressed that the number for Children Receiving Early Intervention Services and Children with Individual Education Plans (IEP) seemed very low.
 - 221 for Early Interventions is incorrect. Champaign County alone is 500/month according to interactions.
 - 2022 data council has is 1193
 - What is causing the discrepancy?
 - Where exactly is this data from?
 - What is the missing part?

Suggestions for data presentation:

- Footnotes to include what counts as Early Intervention services
- Would like to see Capacity of how many children filled vs. capacity enrollment numbers
- Combined table of Capacity vs. Enrollment would be useful

Next Steps:

Council Members to forward us data to use.

Review Early Interventions services and make footnotes about what services are included.

Review data provided by Council Members

Investigate IECAM data to answer questions posed by Council

Sort out Ford County funding sources (chart? table?) as an information source

Find the missing link of data for Early Intervention services.

Data Discussion: (30 minutes)

Divided into four groups, provided paper copies to people in person. Samantha Copeland transferred notes to digital copy of Jamboard. Used Jamboard to answer the following questions:

1. What is the gap between the total number of children and early care and education programs and total services in the region?



2. What is the gap between publicly funded programs and children eligible for publicly funded programs in the region?
3. What are possible drivers of the gap in care in the region?
4. What data is missing, that would be helpful to have in order to make a better analysis of the slot gap?
5. What other indicators should be considered alongside the slot gap?
6. Is there anything from the discussion last time that can contribute to the understanding of the slot gap in this region?

Next steps:

Samantha Copeland will place pdf of Jamboard in Google folder. Yellow sticky notes are from small group discussions. Blue sticky notes are from the larger group discussion.

Future Meeting Times (10 minutes)

Preferences voiced by members

- Meeting times from last poll no longer fit
- Want new members to have input
- Decision to repoll
- Asked for one January meeting Voted to skip first January meeting

Next Steps:

Samantha Copeland to send out poll for new meeting times.