



MEETING NOTES

Region 1 Action Council Meeting

Location: via ZOOM

Date & Time: April 27, 2023 3:15pm – 4:30pm

Council Members present: Katie Janssen, Sarah Farha, Brooke Walker, Rosemary Grace, April Darringer, Cassie Delaney

Council Members Absent: Meyonna Minner, Kathy Fellhauer, Brittney Brokaw, Shanna Edison, Julie Stratman, Erica Maynard, Andrea Akers

3:17pm: Welcome & Introductions

3:19pm: Community Agreements

3:20 pm: Icebreaker Discussion Activity

3:43 pm: Collaborations Discussion

Notes: The following highlights emerged from the discussion of collaborations

- Collaborations in the 6 county area- please let us know if we are missing a categorization or a group that is missing
 - 1) Interagency: groups come together to share things they have in common
 - 2) Policy Council: Head start of those enrolled in their programs
 - 3) Community Groups: working in cities and small communities
 - 4) Early Childhood Collaborations: partnerships serving children 0-5
- We have identified:
 1. Interagency: Cass County Health Dept, EYP Quarterly interagency, Morgan County
 2. Policy Council: PACT Head Start, Urban League Head Start (Brooke requests an invite to the Morgan County meeting)
 3. Comm Groups: Btown Youth Group, Jacksonville youth Group (JAFFL), and United Way
 4. ECEC Collabs: AOK (Adams County), Brown County

Question to group: What are the most successful collaborations in your area and why are they the most successful and effective?

Collaborations focused on whole child

- Lincoln group focused on the health of the community. They talk about Mental health, school, and the well being of the community - for all ages not just 0-5.
- Lincoln Group is a great example because they have subcommittees. There is a need to expand outside of resource sharing.

Collaborations to eliminate hunger:

- EYP in Jacksonville successfully collaborating with Salvation Army as a main source for Jacksonville - expanding their food program and collaborating with the food bank and are one of the only referral programs in the city for the Food Bank. MCS services also expanded what they do and provide with families and Morgan County Housing for families as well.
- Farmers Market is going to match and double or triple assistance given from SNAP- Memorial will be the one doing that to encourage use of Fresh fruits and veggies. There will also be classes that will teach them how to use it and cook it. There will be an event that will be this summer for thousands of food given away. DHS provides this. Not Memorial, according to Rosemary.
- Adams County Horizons Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry in Adams County. Also, our Salvation Army and Horizons and Quanaada in Quincy also has a food distribution center.

Discussion wraps up by request to bring identified initiatives and needs to Birth to Five and we will try to filter it out to our contacts to spur positive outcomes for families and children

3:56pm: Parent and Community Engagement - Discussion about parent activities that programs are offering and also; how do we get parents engaged in the process of grass roots parts in our region?

Question to group: What are the most crucial barriers to remove for parent engagement in school activities with their children?

- Bad experience themselves
- work schedules, hard to get there
- gas money or means to get there especially with rural areas
- exhaustion, a lot of demands on peoples time
- consistent communication in the same way- sometimes text, sometimes email, sometimes flyer

Question to group: For those who are hosting or attending these events, do you schedule on the weekends? If not, is that because staff need downtime?

- Don't schedule on weekends but will go to events that other agencies are hosting and will let families know to attend.
- Have events in the evening time
- Have evening time events, and we have better attendance if we have food
- Have switched times to meet family needs and are sending out an end of the year survey to ask their input of which day/time is best. We had some at 10am, some at 1pm or 4pm based on the interest of our parents.

Question to group: How do we engage families and motivate them to get on board as a parent and spur interest?

- Clear expectations of time and commitment level
- Voices that are heard
- Free childcare offered

Question to group: What initiatives do you think would motivate them to participate?
Affordable childcare so they can work full time but without losing their housing assistance or their Link benefits and their LIHEAP (quote from Rosemary here?)

Reminder to group that one thing we can do is to collect family stories. We are happy to reach out to a family and someone will give verbal permission. These stories are making a huge impact.

4:15pm: Upcoming Meetings - May 9th we are talking about strengths, needs and recommendations

4:16pm: Regional Scan Updates - Slot Gap final version shared on screen with a 5 minute review session for members to read revised version. No thoughts or objections shared.

4:20pm: Announcements -

- Please still send us people who will share Family Stories.
- You can still attend EI Town Halls - upcoming dates provided in slide deck
- Tomorrow (4/28) the ISBE is announcing an inclusion project - we will provide updates as appropriate in future meetings
- ISBE released a new round of RFP's under the ECBG; new funding is now available for PFA, PFAE and PI. Birth to Five is available for assistance.
- All meeting links shared

4:26pm: Meeting adjourned