



MEETING NOTES

Region 24 Action Council Meeting

Location: Hybrid-

Date & Time: April 5, 2023, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Council Members present: Glenda Love, Genny Haggard, Ann Marie Kuta, Jessica Kubiak, Nancy Beal, Jami Mast, Melissa Vargas

Council Members Absent: Corey Mehnert, Michelle Polivka

11:00 am: Welcome & Review Community Agreements (5 Minutes)

Notes: Welcomed back everyone to the ninth Action Council Meeting. Council members reviewed the Community Agreements to ensure they are still in line with the group's vision.

11:05 am: Meeting #8 Follow-Up (20 Minutes)

Notes: Regional Council Manager followed up with council members regarding a couple of items from the previous meeting. Items addressed are listed below:

- Update on the progress of the Family Council, interviews, and focus groups.
- Additional comments regarding the Workforce information and discussion from the last meeting
- Plan for the release of the Regional Scan into the community and how the council members will be involved.

11:35 am: Parents, Families, and Caregivers (1 hr 30 Minutes)

Notes: Regional Council Manager facilitated a discussion by asking the following questions:

- In what ways do you think racial inequity impacts early childhood education and care in your region?
- What actions can help promote racial equity in early childhood education and care in your region?
- What are parents' experiences with access to early childhood care and education in the region?
- Whose voices are still missing? How can we capture their voice in the future?
- Do current services/supports seem sufficient for how the community is growing/changing?

Some highlights from this discussion are as follows:

- Access to Early Childhood Education and Care programs for children without an IEP is very limited. Many families end up having to pay out of pocket, which is an expense most families cannot afford, or the child is placed on an extensive waitlist.

- The standard for high quality should be the same across the board regardless of if the provider is a Family Provider or a Center.
- A strength of the region is the fact that we are acknowledging more services are needed.
- We have given too much power to people who have no experience in the field. We need to let the teachers be the leaders and parents be partners in the education system with teachers.
- There is a need for teachers to be required to take additional training, specifically focusing on cultural sensitivity and equity.
- The Regional Scan is missing the voice of business owners, doctors, and Early Intervention teachers.

12:55 pm: Council Planning (5 mins)

Next Meeting:

Date- April 19, 2023

Time- 11:00am-1:00pm