



## AGENDA

### Region 26 Action Council Meeting

Location:

Date & Time: 6:00-7:45pm | [Virtual Link](#)

[Powerpoint Link](#)

Members present: Cara Erude, Micah Garrett, Amy Gee, Angela Hale, Paul Larson, Lacie McGraw, Shannon McKee, Josh Pickel, Sharron Waring  
Welcome, Introductions, Icebreaker (6:00-6:15pm)

Facilitator(s): Paul Larson, Lacie McGraw, Shannon McKee

Community Profile: What Do We Know (6:15-6:35pm)

Decisions: Impressions of Hancock county.

- Many small communities make up the county
- Rural
- No big manufacturer in the county closed in 2008 driving the working population down to seek things outside of the county.
- Each town in the county has its own library.
- Lots of divide between the counties.
- Schools and hospitals are major employers in the county.
- Close-knit communities
- Small businesses are moving into the community
- Pockets of Religious beliefs make up the community.
- Summer is the busy season with tourism
- A community center is opening in Nauvoo which will house other services



- No major retailers in county residents are seeking that outside of the county.

## Next steps

### ECEC Landscape: What Do We Think (6:35-6:45pm)

1. What's the quality
  - i. Quality is high because there aren't many providers and the providers that are there are well-known, well-liked, and professional
2. Is it accessible?
  - i. The available slots are few and far between, and the children that are not using the providers in Hancock county may be using them in the county/town they work in.
3. Is it affordable?
  - i. The cost of child care in the area is not equivalent to the income earned in the area.
  - ii. income guidelines have increased for CCAP making it so more families are qualified for it.
  - iii. Providers are required to raise the pay for non ccap families making it a "tighter squeeze" for middle-class families.



- iv. CCAP enrollment has gone down due to child care slots not being offered.

What do expect: Child care, Families, Services what is working and is not (6:45-7:15pm)

1. Home providers have decreased from 60 to 23
2. Home providers do not have slots available
  - a. slots for infants are few and far between in the county
  - b. despite having the highest population of children in our region Hancock county has the least amount of slots at 280 children serviced out of the 1175 children.
  - c. Pre-k is abundant in the area with 7 pre-k locations.
3. Child Care providers have been around for a long time in the area
4. resources/quality is there for the providers due to the open communication between the area and providers.
5. applications for ccap are taking 2 to 3 days to receive and start the review process
  - a. the ability to access resources is easier in the area.
6. Libraries are doing great in improving Early Childhood Education.
7. Bowen and the Plymouth area, farming families, and the religious population are underserved, but do they want service?
8. Paperwork, state requirements, and licensing procedures can deter some from becoming licensed home providers



9. Early Learning Standards do not align with kindergarten readiness standards
10. Providers and CCAP are struggling to find a place to hold training sessions since Carl Sandburg closed their extension.

Schedule meeting frequency/duration, location, and virtual platform.

(7:15-7:25pm

[Photo Release — Birth to Five Illinois](#)

Next Meeting

Date: Feb 23rd

Time: 6:00pm-7:45pm

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church, Canton IL, Virtual