



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 40 Family Council Meeting

**Location: Hybrid Via Zoom and Yonder Works, 500 North Main St. Carrollton, IL 62016**

**Date & Time: February 7, 2023, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

Council Members present: Kelly Ballard, Abby King

Council Members Absent: Brittany Peters, Jena Walden, Jessica Tupper, Kaitlin Heinz, Stormy Sanders, Tracy Fox-Clarkson, Kimberly Speaker, Kassie McEvers, Ashton Peacock, Sadie Renken, Kelsey Deaton

#### **5: 30 pm: Welcome Introductions & Value and Goals (5 min)**

Notes: PPT

- Birth to Five Staff: Lindsey Coultas –Lindsey Coultas – Family & Community Engagement Specialist
- Family Voice
- Racial Equity
- Collective Impact

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- ECE and ECEC Slot Gap Data Walk

#### **5:35 pm: Review Birth to Five Illinois Action Council Notes, and ECE and ECEC Slot Gap Data Walk (5 mins)**

Notes:

- Children aged 0-5 by Counties, Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin

Decisions made:

- Macoupin has more children compared to other counties in the region.
- Macoupin and Greene have fewer 3- to 5-year-olds than 0–2-year-olds. Since this data is based on the 2020 Census these 0–2-year-olds are now 3 -5 and we are experiencing a shortfall in ECE and ECEC programs.
- What will the next 5 years look like for Region 40 children in ECE/ECEC programs

Next Steps: N/A



### **5:40 pm: Child Care Capacity Slot Gap (25 min)**

Notes:

- Lack of Child Care in our Region
- Children Birth to five totals over 5,072 (according to Census).
- Child Care Capacity Slot Gap shows approximately 3000 children without Slots,
- Where are they? with grandparents, out of the region to where parents are working, in public school programs or head start programs.
- Still not enough child care for all children as many parents we talk to say cannot find child care

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- Number of Childcare Centers/Homes Sites and Capacity.

Notes: Number of Childcare/Homes Sites and Capacity

- What does it mean to be licensed exempt? License exempt cannot have children under the age of 2 years old.
- How many families may work in another county and take their child to that county and not the county they live in?

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- Publicly Funded Programs No.'s and Capacity

Notes: Publicly Funded Programs No's and Capacity

- It looks like our preschool for all is a good number.
- Limited number of public-school programs in Macoupin County, but Macoupin has several head start programs that may make up for the lack of public school programs.
- Head Start seems like a low number for the kids who may need it.
- How are qualifications different for each program? Is there recruiting? How do parents find out about the program?



**6:05 pm: Focused Questions (25 min)**

Notes: Greene – County

What programs in your region offer services for Children from Birth through age five?

- Bright Futures – Birth to Three Program
- Pre-School for All
- Roodhouse Library -Storytime
- White Hall Library – Storytime, Move. Painting, Craft & Move and Groove.

What resource barriers exist for families when considering access to care? (Transportation, funds, availability, quality, knowledge of managing a child's disability, etc.)

- Transportation
- Affordability (for middle-class families)
- Quality
- PT and OT not being affordable if insurance doesn't pick up the cost.

How are families deciding which providers to choose from? Quality? Trust? Care?

- You get what you get, we do not have many choices and or providers within our region.
- Go to someone that a friend may refer to you.

Where and when would be a good way for families to become aware of these programs? How can we reach those that may be isolated in the home and not in the community?

- We need a place where navigating our options is easier.
- Unsure of all the services that are available.
- Set up a collaborative outreach system to reach families that have no access to some services because they don't know about them.



How does the family feel about the time that it takes in their community to start Early Intervention therapy once an evaluation has qualified them for services?

What support would help during that waiting period?

- Paperwork becomes repetitive with a lot of the same questions, having to fill out the same questions repeatedly.
- Families only know what services are provided via word of mouth or knowing someone who works in that area.
- Being able to go to a one-shop place, where the different entities can share information, like housing and DHS.

How do families feel about the transportation time or distance to another school if it is not available in their own community?

- Kids are spending over an hour in Greene County
- Lack of consistent transportation – Rural Areas
- Preschool-age kids having to ride the bus with high school children.
- Having to change buses several times, from when they are picked up in the country and taken to one school, then get on another bus to go to elementary.

Decisions made: Questions will be sent to Family Council members that didn't attend.

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- The next Family Council meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2023, from 5:30 pm. – Via Zoom.