



MEETING NOTES

Region 24 Action Council Meeting

Location: Hybrid- 1304 Sunset Ave. Suite B, Yorkville, IL or Zoom

Date & Time: February 15, 2023, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

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

Council Members absent: Stephanie Adamson, Michelle Polivka, Jami Mast

11:00 am: Welcome & Introductions (5 Minutes)

11:05 am: Community Agreements (5 Minutes)

Notes: Council members read over agreed upon Community Agreements.

Decisions made: Action Council members all agreed on the Community Agreements.

Next Steps: Continue to have open communication in all meetings.

11:10 am: Meeting #5 Follow-Up (20 Minutes)

Notes: Followed up with council members regarding highlights from the previous meeting.

Highlights:

- Update on Family Council, we welcomed 4 new Family Council members.
- Focus Groups/Interviews will be conducted with other community stakeholders such as Higher Education Institutions, Parents and Caregivers and the Early Childhood Workforce and Faith based community will be invited to participate.
- Informed Council on new collaboration in our area- Kendall County 2-1-1 which will present to us at our March 1st Action Council meeting.
- Reflected on local collaborations information/meeting.

As many of these meetings have overlapping information and discussion, Council Members revisited slot gap. Some highlights are as followed:

- There is need for before and after school care for preschoolers, especially those children who are 5 years old but cannot attend a before and after school program due to them not being in kindergarten yet.
- Council members biggest feedback they receive from families is the lack of providers with training and experience working with children with special needs. These are the children placed in child care centers because of no other options, then get “kicked out” of the program.
- Many child care centers and programs are unaware of being able to access Mental Health Consultants. Those that do know about Mental Health Consultants utilized them too late in the process with a child.

11:30am: Priority Populations (1hr 25mins)

Notes: Data given on Priority Populations. Council Members read through each explanation, then asked to share their thoughts and any information known about each listed priority population.

Listed below are a few priority populations that display a high percentage in the region:
-Teen parents, Refugees, Families experiencing Homelessness, Financial hardships, and Children with disabilities

Some highlights from this discussion are as follows:

- It is challenging to build relationships with refugees because of their lack of trust and language barriers. Even if the social service provider speaks the language, often time refugees speak in different dialects making communication more difficult.
- Pregnant refugee women are not receiving prenatal care until late into pregnancy. Social service providers must start at the beginning of providing assistance to these women.
- The school registration process for refugee children is often challenging due to language barriers.
- Training on Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma should be more available and required for Early Childhood teachers and providers. Parents should also have trauma training available to them so they can learn more about working through their own trauma.
- Immigrant families often time receive letters stating they will lose certain benefits if they receive assistance from other sources. This creates fear within these families, which adds to the challenges of reaching this demographic or keeping in contact with them over an extended amount of time.
- Immigrant families are also afraid to sign up for services because they are worried about their information getting into the wrong hands. One agency within our region works with immigrant families and assures them no information is given out. It is confidential.

12:55pm: Next Steps (5 mins)

Notes: Action Council members were asked what they feel should be our next steps. Here are their responses:

- Complete a Region Resource Catalog for all agencies, organizations, and programs to access at any time.
- Locate demographics on parents who are incarcerated.
- Brainstorm ideas to begin moving forward with solutions.
- Gather additional data on immigrant families from council, focus groups/interviews.

Next Meeting:

Date- March 1, 2023

Time- 11:00am-1:00pm