



MEETING NOTES

Region 24 Action Council Meeting

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

Date & Time: January 18, 2023, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Council Members present: Glenda Love, Jami Mast, Jessica Kubiak, Melissa Vargas, Michelle Polivka, Nancy Beal, Genny Haggard, Corey Mehnert

Council Members absent: Stephanie Adamson, Ann Marie Kuta

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

Notes: Welcomed back everyone to the fourth Action Council Meeting. Sharkisha checked in with members regarding how they are doing.

11:05am: 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.

11:10am: Ice Breaker Activity- Family Council (10 Minutes)

Notes: Mandy updated members on what the Family Council discussed at the last meeting. Members were shown a list of items parents/caregivers might consider while looking for child care. Action Council members were put into breakout rooms to discuss the top 3 items they thought the Family Council members said were most important to them while looking for child care. Here are the responses:

Group 1-

1. Affordability
2. Hours
3. Location/Flexibility

Group 2:

1. Affordability
2. Curriculum
3. Atmosphere

After everyone shared, we discussed what the Family Council members said were their top 3 items for child care. The Action Council members began a conversation about the importance of curriculum in early education programs since this was not a high priority for Family Council members. Members felt the reason for curriculum to not make the top 3 items is due to their priorities needing to be met, the level of importance of early learning and other factors that outweigh focusing on curriculum, such as cost, hours, and location.

11:20am: Meeting #3 Follow-Up (10mins)

Notes: Action Council members circled back to home visiting protocols which needed more information from members. The home visiting protocol information is listed below:

- One program that serves families in our region also serves 5 other counties. This program uses the curriculum Parents as Teachers, which all visits are based on. In Grundy County, there are 18 families being served with 1 home visitor. This information will be updated in IECAM soon. Since this program serves 7 counties, some of the demographic information is housed in other counties. This results in a county in need of more services or funding getting overlooked because the data shows there are plenty of services in that area even though that is not the reality.
- Another program in our region has information that all goes under Kane County even though they provide services to families in Kendall County. Again, this results in possible funding going to one county or the incorrect data that we currently see.

11:30am: Slot Gap (1hr 15mins)

Notes: After an explanation of slot gaps, members were shown the website childcaregap.org and asked to share their thoughts after seeing the data. All members agreed the potential need for child care was interesting to see. Action Council members were asked the following questions regarding slot gaps:

- What is the gap between the total number of children and early care and education programs and total services in the region?
- What is the gap between publicly funded programs and children eligible for publicly funded programs in the region?
- What are the possible drivers of the gap in care in the region?
- What data is missing that would be helpful to have in order to make a better analysis of the slot gap?
- What other indicators should be considered alongside the slot gap?
- Is there anything from the discussion last time that can contribute to the understanding of the slot gap in this region?
- What does the data tell us about what our region might need in the future?

Below highlights some key responses from Action Council members:

- There are a number of families who could use services or resources but can't because their income is too high according to the various FPLs.

- The slot gap data shows us there is a need for more child care options, especially in the rural parts of the region.
- Corporate daycares are staying away from rural areas because they feel that is not where they would financially thrive.
- “What is the breakdown of the workforce in the counties?” Knowing the number of children in the region versus the actual need for child care based on the workforce would be helpful and interesting to see.

Decisions made: Solutions to barriers need to be addressed in order to lessen the slot gap in our region.

Next Steps: Brainstorm possible barrier solutions with council members. Hold focus groups with community stakeholders to address solutions.

12:50pm: Action Council Logistics/Next Steps (10 mins)

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

Here are their responses:

- “Why are parents not sending their children to daycare or programs? What are the barriers?”
- Funding is not streamlined so information is difficult for families to find or even be aware of. There should be a central location for funding information for providers and families. This information should be from an actual person, not an internet search.
- We need real-time data in one location. “It’s like operating behind an 8 ball because the data is not accurate.”
- The state needs to change how data is collected so it is more updated and correct. There has to be a better way to collect data.
- What kind of information are we giving families? They might not know about subsidies and help that is available. The slot gap seems to be impacted by a lack of awareness.

If you need a page 3. The notes shouldn't be longer than 3 pages. If they are, please contact Jes at jscheinflug@birthtofiveil.com