



MEETING NOTES

Region 1 Action Council Meeting

Location: Zoom meeting

Date & Time: January 10 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Council Members present: Brooke Walker, Rosemary Grace, April Darringer, Sarah Farha, Brittney Brokaw, Meyonna Minner, Erica Maynard, Shanna Edison, Cassie Delaney, Andrea Akers, Erica Maynard

Council Members Absent: Vianey Torres, Julie Stratman, Kathy Fellhauer

3:05pm: Welcome & Introductions

Notes: The Birth to Five Illinois staff were introduced to the group, and the individuals (and their roles).

Council is still short on some targeted membership, and we are looking to add up to 6 new council members before finalizing our numbers. New council members, Andrea Akers, joined for the first time today. Council members were asked to encourage anyone who holds elected office, those from the faith-based community, second family member representatives, rural PFA's, home based care providers, and residents from Scott County to Bridget English for possible recruitment. Family Council recruitment is ongoing.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Continue to target demographics listed above. Action Council closing at the end of January.

3:15pm: Icebreaker Activity

Notes: Icebreaker question: What is the biggest change necessary to improve your program's quality OR capacity?

Discussion included the following remarks/comments:

- Understanding the importance for all children to have access to quality educational opportunities
- Funding (mental health) - "Funding. Definitely. We always have a need to serve in the community; we always have a waitlist. Insurance doesn't pay greatly and we struggle with trying to meet that need."
- Funding (publicly funded program) We know there is a need for children under 3 and pregnant women.
- Qualified workforce (publicly funded program)

- Workforce retention (home visiting program)
- Behavioral/SEL supports (publicly funded program)
- Recruitment to teacher prep programs -funding is there (higher ed)
- Need more accurate data (publicly funded program)
- Transportation (publicly funded program)

3:40pm: Early Childhood Education and Care Programs Data Discussion I

Notes: We will be covering ECEC Programs data over two meetings in January and reviewing different data sets in each meeting.

- **Overview of types of ECEC programs and settings (as identified by Partner Plan Act)**
- **Types of Federally Funded Programs** - attachment ; We have HS, EHS, (Migrant HS), MIECHV Home Visiting (includes EHS and Healthy Families)
- **Types of State Funded Programs** - We have PFA, PFAE, PI, CCAP, EI, Early Special Ed
 - These seem to be the overarching areas of concern.
 - Families are sharing that they aren't getting access to special ed prior to entering preschool.
- **Types of ECEC services** -
 - Home Visiting: multiple models Let's circle back to combining home visiting programs.
 - Integrated Referral systems: this could be a service we would recommend
 - Doula- very helpful in rural areas of the region
- **Other types of ECEC services**
 - Faith based
 - Licensed and unlicensed
 - Teen parenting programs (Do you know a group working with this population? If so, please share with us.)
 - Therapists and Specialists who are in hospital systems
 - Crisis Pregnancy centers and Nurseries
- **Funding stream: [Primer For Early Childhood Funding Commission Report](#)** We are not advocating for changes in the short term. We are looking at: is it possible that the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing? In what ways might this be streamlined for better access for families and providers? Observation that this is not easy for families to navigate - all in agreement.
- **ILAFC Asset Map Data Walk** - first impressions included: very little coverage in rural areas, many miles between access points. Regional Head Start serves 8 counties and drive times for home visiting is "unreal" Drain on time and fiscal resources, limits capacity.
 - **Public funded programs** - comprehensive walk through the publicly funded programs throughout the region. The following questions/errors/comments were observed:
 - Need to determine how HS/EHS combo programs are represented - which color represents both? Map would be easier to read if there was a separate color for combined programs.
 - Question about Mendon Unity (**Adams County**) - is there a PFA up there?

Council members believe there is a pre-school, but it is not ISBE funded?
We will be looking into this to confirm.

- Pittsfield (**Pike County**) has PFA at Pikeland District, but no PI or EHS on map. Regional HS confirms there is HS and EHS there. Two classrooms under 3 operating there with no wait list.
- Winchester (**Scott County**) has PFA but no birth to 3 in the entire county. Regional HS confirms that PACT is providing home based services with home visitors based outside the county (Pittsfield - Pike County)
- Murrayville (**Morgan County**) PFA/PI is connected to Jacksonville School District 117
- Franklin and Waverly (**Morgan County**) appears to need updated
- We see in the Perry (**Pike County**) area, there is a large desert. Griggsville - Perry got their PFA back recently and needs to be added to the map. There aren't a lot of jobs in those areas. Those parents are driving to Jacksonville or Quincy and finding childcare there.
 - Question about preschool enrollment numbers reflecting families transporting outside the county. Observation that people attend preschool in the counties they are transporting their children to, and then will later enroll in their home school for kindergarten and some are just simply not attending a preschool.
 - Multiple council members agreed on the need for a transitional kindergarten. : Quincy (**Adams County**) has a transitional kindergarten that is district funded. There are also private options - both faith based and non profit that are paid for by parents.
 - QPS uses a referral system. There is also a process for those in PFA programs to make assessments and recommendations for teacher placement. This begins in April to determine if they want to commit to a spot. Those without IEPs only are eligible for referral
 - A lot of the highest needs are not committed because it is parent choice and some parents don't see the benefit. It is an intervention versus a retention. Some parents just want their kids to move on and will deny this service.
- **Areas of need:**
 - **Developmental Screenings** : [Erikson Institute Prenatal - Three Supplemental Report](#) first impressions included: Odd that Adams county shows no screenings being done. Observation that a large bubble appearing on the Adams County line could be Quincy and is misplaced.

No one on council could identify what this location doing a large amount of screenings might be. Who is doing the screenings? Council members shared what they know about their areas/programs:

- Jacksonville (**Morgan County**): 3-5 is done by Four Rivers in child care centers, EYP, Head Start. 0-3 is not done unless they are in PI Program, WIC/Health Department, doctor offices
 - **Pike County** reports that childcare is encouraged to do ASQ screenings in the child care programs but those screening stay within the program unless a referral to to EI or local school district is warranted
 - CCAP (**Morgan/Scott Counties**) using Brigance
 - Quincy (**Adams County**) ECEC programs are performing screenings at enrollment. Early Intervention does screenings on referral. Worry expressed for the 3-5 population who don't walk through the center or get screened prior to kindergarten.
 - Regional HS (**Cass, Pike, Adams, Brown, Scott Counties**) says that some kids are screened by CFC and referred by EHS based on screening; required to developmentally screen every child they serve and will send them for further evaluation if areas of concern.
 - Overall consensus appears to be confusion and not a lot of clarity about a streamline for developmental screenings, with many children likely not getting screened prior to pre-k and k milestones.
- **Early Intervention:** Bridget shares that we know that our Early Intervention office is the same throughout the region. We have heard of back logs that are really concerning and we know it is not for lack of trying and there is a significant workforce shortage. We are going to table this until the next meeting when we can give it the time it deserves.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Circle Back: How are they combining EHS/HS on the map (no consistency in which color is used to signify both)? We have generic labels that need to be cleaned up. List of combined home visiting programs. Nature of Mendon Unity pre-k funding. Early Intervention discussion.

- **Next Meeting**

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Circle Back: How are they combining EHS/HS on the map (no consistency in which color is used to signify both)? We have generic labels that need to be cleaned up. List of combined home visiting programs. Nature of Mendon Unity pre-k funding.

4:15pm: Circle Back Discussion

- Languages represented throughout the region: Spanish, Arabic, Filipino/Tagalog, French, Gujarathi, Hindi, Polish, Russian, Urdu. ASL was not considered, however, we acknowledge that ISD is in our region and this population should be considered in the conversation.
- Birth Rates: Still holding for accurate data counts
- Teen pregnancy: Tabling that discussion until we get to priority population
- African Immigrants in the Census Data: African immigrants were counted as Black Foreign born. We have identified this as a blind spot. We are looking for the data and making note that this impacts our region. This is a recent article for more information on immigration patterns among black people to the U.S.: [Key Findings About Black Immigrants in the U.S.](#)

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Circle Back: N/A

4:20pm: Additional Questions/Housekeeping/Announcements

- Please fill out the media release and send it to: Regina Nichols (rnichols@birthtofiveil.com) along with your headshot, if you have not already done so.
- There is a shared Google Drive folder that has been created for Action Council members that will be shared after the meeting. This folder includes agendas, presentations, meeting notes, important links and action council member contact information, but we want you to access this information at your discretion and convenience, rather than sending it piecemeal in multiple emails.
- A series of on demand trainings are available to you for free and can be found in the PD folder in Google Drive. If you have other things you want added, feel free to request these additional resources and we will add them.
- Conscious Discipline is being offered by Kim Hughes virtually and in person at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois on February 25. This is hosted by Jacksonville Area Friends of Family Learning. Also feel free to share with people in your organization.
- Birth to Five Illinois sent a contingent to Springfield, IL to speak with legislators. We let them know we are a resource. It was a proud moment to talk about all of you and the work we are doing.

Next Steps: N/A

Circle Back: Forms requested by three members

4:28pm - Meeting adjourned