



## **Meeting Agenda**

**Claire Happel Ashe, Paul Larson, Lacie McGraw,  
Shannon McKee, Josh Pickel.**

### **Region Action/ Family Council Meeting**

**Date & Time: July 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 12-1pm**

- I. Welcome & Ice Breaker**
- II. Discussion Region 26 Press Talking Points**
  - a. Paul let the Council know that the Regional Needs Assessment should be released soon.**
    - i. Let the Council know that Interest forms are opened up.**
    - ii. Addendum will be added, to fill in any gaps that we may have missed.**
  - b. Question- who needs a physical copy of the scan or who needs to see the scan?**
    - i. ROE, Superintendent, Providers, Area Businesses, Park Districts, 4H, Rotary, Health Departments, Doctor Office, Western Illinois Regional Council, MOPS, Library, Higher Education, and bigger business owners.**
    - ii. Josh stated that he would be able to have flyers at his GED classes**
      - 1. Fulton County Arts is setting up in October and he would like to invite us to the event.**
    - iii. Leveraging Council Members to get out into the community.**



1. Helpful for Council to do a warm handoff for companies, and groups that might not know about Birth to Five Illinois.

### **III. Implementation Brainstorm**

- a. Overview of Recommendations that were written into the Regional Needs Assessment.
  - i. Handout of Talking points sent to members present.
- b. What is one thing you personally would like to see improved in ECEC services
  - i. Make ECEC jobs more desirable through increased wages and better benefits
  - ii. Better Pay while more affordable for families
- c. What stands out to you about our recommendations
  - i. Lack of Workforce
    1. Josh asked what is the main reason for the lack of workforce in our region?
      - a. Lack of Pay
        - i. Some much education for such little pay
        - ii. The Value in Child Care workers are not seen so the money isn't being put into the workforce around ECEC.
        - iii. We want workers to be paid more but don't want the parents to have to pay more.
        - iv. Make it an economic issue if you want people to need childcare for you to go to work. We need someone in Charge to make it happen.



1. Putting funding in the right places is the major issue of our lifetime, funding is going to the wrong places. We need to create a strong bridge to where the funding comes from in order to get the funds to the correct places. (Josh)
  2. From our end it looks like going to Springfield and to elected officials with both councils and showing the “strength in numbers” and showing what the problem is and how we need help.
    - a. Organize a big group to go and speak with everyone.
  3. We need to acknowledge that the learning structure has changed and the workforce has changed.
    - a. Schools and colleges align with Preschools and Child Care Centers to get Field hours and Hands on Learning like Trade Classes.
- ii. Accessible services for developmental needs
- d. what is one concrete thing we as a group could do
- i. Bring information about the needs of families and caregivers to broader community through media
  - ii. make existing services easier to find and utilize



- e. **What one task can we achieve locally?**
  - i. **Connect service providers with each other and with those who need services**
  - ii. **Help the resources available, along with the gaps, become more known.**
- IV. **Resources to include on the website.**
  - a. **Council was asked what would be good for our webpage to be added.**
    - i. **List of childcare providers in our Region.**
    - ii. **How to start a provider/ Care center**
    - iii. **Find how to become or get the education to go into ECEC, with a list of classes, programs, and scholarships in the local area.**
    - iv. **One stop shop for all things ECEC**
    - v. **Local resources for Disability services.**
    - vi. **Professional Development Resources**
    - vii. **Wait list or job openings for centers in the Region that have them available.**
    - viii. **Funding opportunities and grants for providers, or people getting started in this line of business.**
    - ix. **Showing our Family stories for our Region Specific**

Next Meeting  
Date August 11th  
Time 12pm