



Meeting Notes: Region 51 Action Council Meeting

Location: Birth to Five Illinois: In-Person and Virtual

Date & Time: Thursday, July 13, 2023, from 6:00-8:00 pm

Council members Present (In Person): Lindsay Sleade, Lajewell White, Kayla Miller, Mitch Baker, Megan Reynolds, Jill Larson, Kendra Day, Debbie Tisckos, and Wendy Williams

Council Members Present (Virtual): Aypri Edwards and Jamar Scott

Council Members Absent: Savannah Wilken, Connie Shugart, Tiffani Saunders, Tracie Sampson, Laurie Rhodes, Ya'Shika Reed, Laura Pickrell, Lori Harrison, Christine Craddock, Doris Turner, and LeAnn Bell

6:00-6:30pm: Went over the Community Agreements explaining why Community Agreements are important and had the Council Members add additional Community Agreements after revisiting. We engaged in the Ice Breaker (*Name, YO Soy De Activity*), we welcomed Amber Walters, updated on the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment Sneak Peeks, and went over Future Meetings.

- Ashley went over the current Agreements for Action Council and the Council agreed that the existing agreements still meet the needs for their meetings.
- Amber introduced herself to the council and told a little about her background.
- Ashley informed the council that the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment release date has been pushed back but is coming soon.
 - This means more Sneak Peeks with community partners.
 - Recent Sneak Peeks included meeting with the local CCR&R, Early Head Start/Head Start, Early Intervention, Senator Doris Turner, District 186/Early Learning Center, various Child Care programs, Sangamon HEART, Rochester, Menard County LIC, and Chatham Libraries
 - Once the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment is released Council Members will receive a link to the PDF, the PowerPoint/Webinar, and the Region 51 Team will ask for feedback to help create the Addendum.

Council was asked to think about the meetings still being on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:00-8:00pm and if that time was still good for everyone. We will vote on this in September when the new Council Members join the meetings.



6:30-7:00pm: The Council revisited the Dissemination Plan for the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment, while also following up with the Council Members on who needs to provide the Birth to Five Illinois: Region 51 team with contact information. We asked the Question: Did you think of anyone else we need to reach or contact?

- Ashley let the Action Council know that many community partners were identified to receive the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment, but now need the contact information for those who were identified in the June Council meeting. We are specifically looking for connections with Stay at Home Parents, Homeschool Parents, Men/Fathers, and Faith-Based Communities.
- Action Council members were asked to give contact information of the people or places they said they had personal connections with at this time.

7:00-7:30pm: The Council Members reviewed the Decolonizing Language Cheat Sheet and took part in the “Infographic Low-Income Working Families” Activity in groups of two to three people.

- Action Council was given an updated version of the Decolonizing Language Cheat Sheet by Erikson Institute and Ashley went over the language we should strive to use when engaging with families and our community.
- This is a new learning process and it will become easier the more we become aware and practice this language.
- The Council was given an Infographic to look for language/images to try and determine if it was Individual vs. Systematic. We discussed how we could reword it and make it more systematic.

7:30-8:00 pm: The Council engaged in the Animal Kingdom activity as a group. We reflected on what we learned, and ask if there were any questions. We then went over the data sources, foundational trainings, provided the Family Council report, and how to connect.

- Council members participated in the activity and then discussed how others perceive things differently than they do and neither are wrong or right. We need to remember everyone has different perspectives and to respect them.
- Ashley went over the data sources we use for Birth to Five Illinois.
- Ashley listed the links to the foundational training from Illinois Action for Children the Council can take.



- Ashley reviewed the ways to connect with us and reminded everyone to join our Facebook Group.

Next Meeting Action Council: Thursday, August 10, 2023, Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Location: 1209 S. 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703