



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 1-B-C Action Council Meeting

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**Date & Time:** April 13, 2023, 4:30-6:30 pm

Council Members present: Michelle Zurita-Sharpe, Adelia Brienzo, Leatha Asbury, Felicia McBride, Janis Jones

Council Members absent: Janice Martin, Rochelle Golliday, Gretchen Bailey, Kelly Burke

#### **4:30 PM: Welcome/Icebreaker (10 mins)**

**It's warming up outside...Finally! Share with us one of your favorite vacations or a place you would love to vacation and why?**

Notes:

- Action Council Members had the opportunity to share.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **4:40 PM: Review of Community Agreements & Best Practices (5 mins)**

Notes:

- Action Council Members decided not to change the Agreements or Best Practices.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **4:45 PM: Region 1-B-C Updates (15 mins)**

Notes:

- Regional Needs Assessment: Ashonti Jackson-Regional Council-Manager provided updates on the Regional Needs Assessment. The Action Council Members will receive information to provide feedback on the Demographics & Slot Gap sections.
- Action Council Recommendations: Ashonti Jackson-RCM explained that this section is still open to receive feedback from Action Council Members. They were reminded to submit their recommendations at their earliest convenience.
- Family Council: Jaime Garibay-Family & Community Engagement Specialist, provided updates on the Family Council and shared that Family Council



Members met in person for the first time last week at the Family Council Meeting.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Send an email to Action Council Members to provide their feedback on the Demographics & Slot Gap section on the Regional Needs Assessment.

### **5:00 PM: Illinois Action for Children Higher Education Navigators (15 mins)**

Notes:

- Tabatha West and Sere Wilson from Illinois Action for Children spoke with Action Council Members on ECEC Workforce and development and the ECACE scholarship.
  - ECACE is a statewide initiative to support programs with educational opportunities for residents.
  - Tabatha & Sere shared some challenges they have faced.
    - primarily when directors or owners do not support their staff's schedule to attend school.
    - Tabatha & Sere stated that Northern & Southern Cook County lack diversity in the Higher Education Navigators program, but the Western side is the most diverse.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

### **5:15 PM: ECEC Landscape (45 mins)**

**Who is a part of the ECEC Workforce? The early childhood workforce consists of volunteers, paraprofessionals, and professionals who promote young children's healthy growth, development, and learning.**

Notes:

- Ashonti Jackson-RCM presented a list of ECEC Workforce Roles to Action Council Members listed below:
  - Health & Nutrition roles may include:
    - Auxiliary nurses/midwives
    - Community health workers
    - Home visitors
    - Nurses/midwives
    - Medical doctors
    - Nutritionist
    - Health educators/trainers



- Health service directors, managers, and supervisors
  - Education roles may include:
    - Child care workers
    - Early childhood teachers
    - Primary school teachers
    - Social pedagogy professionals
    - Teacher assistants, coaches, and trainers
    - Supervisors
    - Education service directors/managers
  - Social & Child Protection roles may include:
    - Social service workers
    - Community child protection officers/workers
    - Psychologists
    - Mental health professionals/specialists
    - Residential care staff
- Action Council Members mentioned a few roles not listed, such as:
  - Cooks
  - Bus Drivers
  - Parent Volunteers
  - Parent Liaisons
  - Interpreters/translators
  - Doulas
  - Family Support Staff
- Ashonti Jackson-RCM discussed the ECEC Workforce landscape in Region 1-B-C.
  - Most directors and teachers in licensed center-based programs have completed a college degree, often completing more than licensing requires.
  - 85% of directors have completed an AA or higher, and teachers have completed an AA or higher.
  - Teaching staff in Chicago have higher levels of education, partly because programs require higher qualifications.
  - The highest level of Education for Licensed Center Directors is a bachelor's degree and a high school diploma/GED for staff.
  - Family Childcare Provider Highest level of education is a high school diploma/GED.



- Ashonti Jackson-RCM asks Action Council Members to think about how diverse the workforce representation is in their community.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Action Council Members will have time to think about ECEC Workforce in Region 1-B-C and will be able to provide feedback via email and at the next meeting.

### **6:00 PM: Questions to Consider (15 mins)**

Notes:

- Ashonti Jackson-RCM asks Action Council Members “Questions to Consider,” and their responses are listed below:
  1. What higher education, high school, or training programs are available for early childhood educators?
    - a. Parent mentor programs for the parents of the students.
    - b. Golden Apple: inspires, develops, and supports teacher and school leader excellence, especially in schools of need.
  2. What training and programs are needed for early childhood educators?
    - a. Additional support on mental health.
    - b. Provide adequate training based on child development.
    - c. Technology training.
    - d. Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
    - e. SPED Training to read and implement IEPs.
    - f. Differentiated instruction.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: The Questions to Consider that weren’t answered during the Action Council Meeting will be emailed to Action Council Members to provide more information.

### **6:15 PM: Closing (15 mins)**

Notes: N/A

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Action Council Members will receive a follow-up email with the ECEC Workforce information that was discussed in the meeting.

Follow-up/Next Steps:

Next Meeting

April 27, 2023 - Hybrid