



MEETING NOTES

Region 9 Action Council Meeting

Location: 601 E Main St. Suite 211. Mahomet, IL 61853

Date & Time: Thursday May 18th, 2023; 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Council Members present: Nicole, Kelly, Brenda, Marguerite

Council Members absent: Donald, Ha young, Lynn, Tonya, Rachel, Tyler, Lily, Jonathan, Brandi, and Kim

1:00pm: Welcome & Introductions & Review of Community Agreements (5minutes)

Notes: Caitlyn began by talking about what the meeting is going to be about. She went over community agreements and the last meeting.

1:05pm: Meeting Warm-Up (10 minutes)

Notes: Council members were asked how would you like to celebrate the completion of RNA? (June/lunch)

Decisions made: Council members suggested having breakfast for a celebration.

Going to send out a survey to see what time and date works best for council celebration. Marguerite offered to host the event.

1:15pm: Meeting 11 Review- Strengths & Needs (30 minutes)

Notes: Caitlyn showed the council the strengths section and asked for feedback- Promise Healthcare was a suggestion. A home visiting program was added to the Early Childhood Services. Caitlyn showed the council the Needs section and asked for feedback. A council member wanted to change the wording for the EI portion of the Needs section. Caitlyn defined regional recommendations to the council. She then asked the council to help build the list.

1:45pm: Break (duration of agenda item)

1:50pm: Defining Regional Recommendations (45 minutes)

Notes: The council gave input on this section. A big conversation that took place was emphasizing companies paying a stipend to workers so that childcare centers could

stay open so their workers can access quality childcare. A council member also brought up that there needs to be an increase in employees, benefits in alignment with the needs of families. A council member brought up that the problem with not having enough staff is due to centers not being able to pay teachers a livable wage. A council member brought up that we should look into the U of I and the college of Diversity to seek out students who are fluent in certain languages and recruit them to work in the centers. There was talk about having intentional outreach to high school students and universities to provide information access to diverse individuals. Collaboration with the armed forces and national guard to expand pool of bilingual individuals. There was talk about an increase of parental education on mental health to better support young children as well as the families. Insurance companies need to make payments for mental health services. Some mental health care providers do not take the state issues insurance and that needs to change. Wrap-around services for the family are needed in our region. A council member brought up that we should have rental vouchers along with utility vouchers. This would help families. A council member brought up that there should be increased incentives and support systems for providers to offer parental education and incentives for parents to participate in prenatal education. There would need to be a regional effort- group of communities to manage a public transit system in areas that don't have one. There is a need for more drivers and buses. Uber and Lyft vouchers would help some families in our region with the transportation barrier.

2:35pm: Open Discussion/ Q&A (15 Minutes)

Notes: No one had questions.

2:50pm: Meeting Wrap-Up (10 Minutes) Summer Schedule and Dissemination Plan

Notes: Caitlyn asked the council if they wanted to keep the same date and time for the meetings in the summer. Council members in attendance were ok with keeping the same time and day. A survey will go out to poll the rest of the council about this question. Summer Dissemination Plan - Caitlyn went over what the plan will look like going forward. She also informed them about staying on the council. She told them she will reach out to them individually via email to talk more about it. Caitlyn asked the council if they had anyone who had a group that we could talk to. One council member suggested United Way of Champaign has been asking about Birth to Five Illinois. LLC might also want to hear about the RNA.