



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 24 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: March 1, 2023, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Council Members present: Glenda Love, Genny Haggard, Ann Marie Kuta, Jessica Kubiak, Melissa Vargas, Nancy Beal, Corey Mehnert, Michelle Polivka, Jami Mast  
Council Members Absent: N/A

#### **11:00 am: Welcome & Introductions (5 Minutes)**

Notes: Introduced Executive Director Amy Peterson of Kendall County 2-1-1

#### **11:05 am: Icebreaker Activity (10 Minutes)**

Notes: Action Council members were asked the following questions:

- How long have you lived or worked in Grundy or Kendall County and what do you like most about it?

#### **11:15 am: Kendall County 2-1-1 Presentation from Amy Peterson (20 Minutes)**

Notes: Council members were given an overview of what Kendall County 2-1-1 entailed and the resources that the organization provides along with specific data points related to county residents such as rental/ mortgage assistance programs that may be available to residents.

#### **11:35 am: Meeting #6 Follow-Up (20 Minutes)**

Notes: Followed up with council members regarding a couple of items from the previous meeting (listed below)

- Council Member's thoughts on adding victims of domestic violence to the Priority Populations list. All members agreed that this group should be considered a Priority Population as most Council members have assisted families in domestic violence situations.
- Additional Early Intervention data shared by a council member regarding Early Intervention services.
- Additional Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) data was shared with council members regarding the number of families utilizing this resource in each county. Council Members expanded on CCAP with the following insights:
  - More awareness about CCAP needs to be spread throughout the community.
  - Some child care facilities do not accept CCAP, which is creating exclusions and continues to segregate populations.

\*Training on how to handle CCAP reporting and paperwork should be a requirement for Family Providers so more child care options would be available for families.

#### **11:55 am: Early Childhood Education Programs (1 hr.)**

Notes: Action Council Members revisited the list of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Key Terms to go further into the discussion and the following questions were asked:

- What is the region's current early childhood care and education landscape? How would you describe it?
- What insights about the ECEC landscape stand out?
- Are there any local or regional programs or funding sources supporting ECEC services?
- What data is unavailable or would be helpful to have in this discussion?
- Whose voices haven't been heard in the data discussion so far? Who needs to be recruited for focus groups/interviews?

Some highlights from this discussion are as follows:

- Based on the data given and experience, there are not many options in the rural areas of Grundy County. This creates a challenge for families with children who need extra support with their behavior. The available child care options in the area cannot accommodate the needs of the child, but then the family has no other options or resources.
- Spreading awareness to families and community stakeholders of available services and resources needs to be a priority, especially in these rural areas.
- Many social services are rejected in rural areas because community stakeholders do not feel the community needs that service. However, the community could benefit from certain resources, but many lack understanding of the particular service and its' benefits.
- It would be helpful to find out the reasons why families are not using child care. Surveying families would be a good way to get this information to have an understanding of what the actual needs are of the community and what barriers exist for possible reasons families are not utilizing child care.
- Data that is unavailable but would be helpful is the actual number of child care centers versus family child care providers in desert areas of the region.

### **12:55 pm: Next Steps (5 mins)**

Notes: Action Council members were asked what they feel should be our next steps. Here are their responses:

- Complete a Region Resource Catalog for all agencies, organizations, and programs to access at any time.
- Brainstorm ideas to begin to move forward with solutions.
- **Next Meeting:**

Date- March 15, 2023

Time- 11:00am-1:00pm