



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 1 Action Council Meeting

Location: via ZOOM

Date & Time: May 9, 2023 3:15pm – 4:30pm

Council Members present: Brooke Walker, Andrea Akers, Shanna Edison, Rosemary Grace, Sarah Farha, Apri Darringer, Brittney Brokaw, Katie Janssen, and Erica Maynard

Council Members Absent: Cassie Delaney, Kathy Fellhauer, Meyonna Minner, Julie Stratman

**3:15pm: Welcome & Introductions**

**3:19pm: Community Agreements**

**3:20 pm: Icebreaker Discussion Activity - Fun Summer Foods/Drinks?**

**3:25 pm: Regional Strengths Discussion**

Notes: Strengths broken in four categories

- ECEC Programs
  - There is a lot of collaboration between programs because we are in smaller communities and we can communicate where there are gaps for families
  - We have a lot of programs that have long term employees that are dedicated to Early Childhood - a lot of PFA's have long term and experienced staff. That is also true in some childcare and Head Start programs as well.

- Quincy and Beardstown both have Transitional Kindergarten
- Blended funding model between HS and PFA in Quincy Public System - doesn't work for every HS, but it is working in QPS
- Workforce
  - EC-ACE and JWCC in our region folks who are working and offering that to our employees in this field. QU also has a licensure program. (PEL in EC)
  - CDA cohorts are valuable additions to Regional programming because there isn't the knowledge base in other areas. That is not as accessible throughout the state.
  - Compared to Chicago we are never going to be able to say we offer great wages, but some programs like Blessing or Illini do offer a fair compensation model
- Collaborations
  - April says that the collaboration and AOK in Adams county is definitely a strength with their IRIS program.
  - TFF and Brown County ELC
  - TFF as a potential partner
- Parent/Community Engagement
  - HS has a very active Policy Council. They work with the board in approving things. PACT has had great participation since COVID, and this group attended a recent state conference together. Parent member of Action Council weighed in that her experience with PACT HS Policy Council was a huge asset to her family that makes her input feel validated and valuable
  - A majority of parents are attending any/all events , back to full pre-COVID participation levels

**3:50pm: Regional Needs Discussion** - Discussion about parent activities that programs are offering and also; how do we get parents engaged in the process of grass roots parts in our region?

- **ECEC Programs**
  - More 0-3 programs
  - Less children in EC classrooms closer to 15 students would be more appropriate than 20.
  - Need supports for the staff and teachers related to children with challenging behaviors and children with special needs- especially as it related to child care programming. They really feel stuck.
  - Need to add EI services, workforce, and quality screenings.
- **Workforce**
  - More staff
  - Need to create quality staff with the education component
  - Need to build more pay for staff
  - Home Visitor pathways and upward mobility

- Trauma training for staff and how to navigate their own trauma in their lives and then working with children who have experienced it.
- **Collaborations**
  - Shift from resource sharing to systems work
  - Integrated referral system would be helpful
    - current referrals are limited and hindered because of the distance between agencies.
    - Bring together agencies/orgs in both the private and public sector
    - Look at Comm. Collaborations that make sense. Ex: Morgan County provides a lot of services for Greene and Scott Counties. It would make sense that the collabs would work across county lines.
- **Parent/Community Engagement**
  - Need a culture shift in the mode of delivery in our marketing/recruiting/delivery that acknowledges the work culture, the new nuclear families, and what they are experiencing in their day to day lives.
  - Need to provide more access for parents living in rural areas - especially through potential partnerships that can serve specialized developmental needs in the most rural areas

**4:15pm: Upcoming Meetings** - May 23rd we will be talking about recommendations. We will be looking at local (Regional) level recommendations, as well as state level. We will also be talking about plans for the June meeting and RNA dissemination.

**4:20pm: Regional Scan Updates** - Collaborations piece discussed - with recommendation to add the Community Foundation in Quincy, and the Quincy Foundation, which fund EC programs. Contact information provided. AC members who are experts in upcoming pieces of RNA will be contacted to help craft messaging

**4:31pm: Announcements** - ISBE RFP's still open and new ISBE/Early Choices Initiative has launched.

**4:33pm: Meeting adjourned**