



MEETING NOTES

Region 56 Action Council Meeting

Location: 2455 Glenwood Ave, Joliet, IL 60435

Date & Time: February 15th, 2023, at 11:00am-1:00pm

Facilitators Present: Madalyn Snowden, Keven Kerr, Erica LoBurgio

In Person Members:	Virtual Members:	Absent Members:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debrah Clark • Sherry Coe • Hassan Von Schlegell • Paula Kennedy • Sandifer Thomas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie Thompson • Stephanie Budziak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellise Boyd-Johnson • Amy Loy • Kathy Fudge-White • Amy Martin • Elizabeth Kaufman • Cherita Toussan-Bowens

Sign In & Goals (10 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team welcomed the Action council, asked everyone to sign in, and presented the Community Agreements and Goals for the meeting. Goals for the meeting were:

Rational Aims:

- Understand why a slot gap exists.
- Find solutions to reduce slot gap.

Experiential Aim:

- Connect Council members in conversation.

Updates (20 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team went over the updates to the Action Council. The updates shared:

- Progress on Bills (Senator Cappel)
 - Elected officials and our work at Birth to Five Illinois
 - SB 1435 (IDHS, universal EL data system)
 - SB 2237-Transportation (Grant Funding)
- Senator Meg Loughran Cappel attending March Action Council Meeting
- Valley View School District- Construction Grant



- 60-million-dollar grant and 8 recipients were awarded
- Discussed upcoming Focus Groups

Breakout Groups #1 – ECEC Programs (20 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team asked the Action Council to answer all the questions in a large group. The activity goal is to work to learn about ECEC programs. The Action Council members used the Google document that was sent via email to help complete the chart.

Group presentation / discussion (30 minutes)

Notes: The Action Council Members and Region 56 Team went over the answers given during the breakout groups and discussed the answers that were shared on each slide.

- Questions and answers were as followed:
- Goals and services provided?
- Ages serviced and setting?
- How do you qualify?
- Funding source?

For each of the following areas: Early Head Start (EHS), Head Start (HS), Preschool For All (PFA), Preschool For All Expansion (PFAE), Prevention Initiative (PI), Early Intervention (EI), Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), Home Visiting Home Visiting MIECHV, Licensed Private Child Care, Licensed Home Child Care

Overview of Slot Gap Data (10 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team presented on ‘What is a Slot Gap Data?’ and shared the slot gap is a term used to describe the difference between the number of children who might need childcare and the number of theoretically available slots across all childcare options: daycare centers, Head Start programs, licensed in-home daycare, and other options.

Breakout Group #2 – Slot Gap Activity (30 minutes)

Notes: The Action Council members were split into groups to answer the following questions about slot gap information and give answers. The questions and answers were as followed:

- Why does this slot gap exist?
- List some barriers that prevent kids from getting a slot.



- Does every child need a slot?
- What does quality care mean to you?
- What is your experience with being on a waitlist?

Next Steps: One member from each group presented some of the answers to the large group.

Group presentation / discussion (10 minutes)

Notes: The Region 56 Team and the Action Council Members presented some of their answers to the rest of the group and had a small discussion.

Closing / Scheduling, and Questions (10 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team asked Action Council members if they had any questions, concerns, or any ideas to share. Family Council also gave feedback for the Action Council to share.

A Council member shared a contact for solution to partnering with higher education for pipelines to teachers and ECEC providers tuition waiver program. Erikson Institute was mentioned for grant writing and resources, and to provide additional insight on that connection. Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) was mentioned from a council member to utilize as well to help parents navigate the special education system.

Discussed Family Council feedback on what quality care means to them.

Family Council members questions to Action Council members:

- Family Council Members asked why the Head Start Programs moved from Rockdale to JJC? They mentioned still needing quality care in Rockdale but have limited options.

Next Meetings:

- Thursday, February 23rd, 2023 at 11:00-12:30pm
- Wednesday, March 15th, 2023 at 11:00am-1:00pm
- Thursday, March 30th, 2023 at 11:00am-12:30pm

Follow up/Next Steps: Region 56 explained how to have access to the Google slides / drive to add any information or questions as they arrive after the meeting and to be addressed for next meeting.