



MEETING NOTES

Region 56 Family Council Meeting

Location: 2455 Glenwood Ave, Joliet, IL 60435

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

Council Members present:

- Paula Kennedy
- Sherry Coe
- Amy Martin
- Debrah Clark
- Ellise Boy-Johnson
- Amy Loy
- Stephanie Budziak
- Elizabeth Kaufman
- Hassan Von Schlegell
- Kathy Fudge-White
- Sandifer Thomas

Council Members not in attendance:

- Stephanie Thompson
- Cherita Tousson-Bowens

Welcome, Sign In, & Goals (5 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 welcomed the Action Council members, asked each person to sign in, and shared today's goals.

Rational Aims:

- Discuss Regional ECEC program, workforce landscape, and priority populations.

Experimental Aims:

- Connect Council members in conversation.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Updates (10 minutes)



Notes: Region 56 shared the updates with the Action Council members:

April Action Council meeting

- Local Collaboration and Strengths / Needs / Recommendations

May Action Council meetings

- Finalize Regional Scan
- Does the scan represent our conversations, needs, barriers, strengths, recommendations, etc.?

Regional Scan Google Document

- Please review as time permits and give feedback.
- Use the "comment" feature.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

ECEC Overview (25 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 presented on priority populations and the team asked the Action Council members some questions regarding ECEC and took note on their answers:

1. What resource barriers exist for ECEC providers or your programs?
 - o State behind on 30-month Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
 - o CCAP participants still cannot afford.
 - o Need full day programs (on half day programs, transportation is a lot)
 - o How many applied for construction grant? We don't have facilities (staffing)
 - o Hiring and being able to keep qualified staff.
 - o Inconsistencies within the agencies.
2. Why are families enrolling in your program(s)?
 - o Look for accreditation.
 - o Recruitment of families
 - o Healthy foods
 - o Costs of program(s)
 - o Enrollment of ALL kids
 - o App (technology) for families to communicate to center / ECEC-Pro Care



3. How do we eliminate child care deserts in our region?
 - o Construction (brick and mortar locations) in those locations.
4. How do we reach families?
 - o Pediatricians
 - o Social media
 - o Provide information to places that families are already going.
 - o Advocate program.
 - o Police / fire department / social work
5. List local or regional funding or programs supporting ECEC services.
 - o Strength and Grow (pay increase)
 - o DHS West 40
 - o PACE
 - o Public transportation
 - o Will County Board
 - o Advocacy Center
 - o Will County Foundation
 - o Quality improvement grants
 - o INCCRRA (jump through hoops and difficult to navigate)
 - o PDA creates a cohort for mini grant.
 - o ROE mini grants (homeless)
6. What has the shift been? Where are the resources needed?
 - o Homelessness
 - o Mental Health
 - o Clinic based for 0-5
 - o Limited staff across the board, including high education.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Asset Map Exploration LIVE (10 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 team used arcgis.com to present and explain the Region 56 Asset Map to the Action Council members. Region 56 team asked the Action Council members what observations they recognized about the ECEC map.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a



Break (7 minutes)

Workforce Overview (45 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team introduced the workforce overview and asked the Action Council members to answer a set of questions:

1. From your perspective, why is it difficult to keep staff in ECEC?
 - Qualifications
 - Behaviors
 - Pay (paras, leads, assistants)
 - No planning time.
 - Paying for own supplies
 - Workload
 - Insurance / retirement / holidays
 - Pay and expectation match.
 - Lack and support / credentials.
 - State agencies are not supporting renewals with consistent information.
2. In your opinion what is causing Early Childhood staff to leave/stay?
 - Lack of support, behaviors
 - Overworked
 - Short staffed
3. What does the quality-of-care look like as it relates to diversity and needs?
 - Bilingual people are not even in the programs for teaching.
 - Higher pay for bilingual teachers.
 - On demand trainings and pay them for their time.
 - Additional behavioral supports.
 - Child care staff qualifies them for CCAP.
 - Testing out of qualifications based on skills.
 - Only way I can keep my staff is to allow my staff to have child care in my center at no cost.
 - Funds to offset cost.
 - Exit interviews shows it is due to dealing with behaviors in the classroom.
 - Need additional supports in the classroom.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a



Next Meeting Schedule Discussion (5 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 announced the next Action Council Meeting, guest speakers, and what to expect.

Next Meetings:

Thursday, March 30th, 2023 – 11:00am-12:30pm (via Zoom)

- Guest speaker Deanna Hill, Child Care Assistance Program

Tuesday, April 18th, 2023 – 12:30pm-2:30pm (via Zoom)

- Provider Focus Group Office Hours

Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 – 11:00am-1:00pm

Location: 2455 Glenwood, Joliet, IL 60435

Follow-up/Next Steps: A follow up email will be sent out to each council member on questions asked, links requested, and next meeting dates, and Zoom links.