



NOTES

Region 32 Action Council Meeting

Location: KCC North Extension, 450 N. Kinzie Ave., Bradley, Illinois

Date & Time: Thursday, January 5th, 2023, 9:00-11:00am

Council Members Present: Cindy Luzeniecki, Carolyn Short, Sheree Sykes, Cindi Schimmelpfennig, Rosemary Pistorius, Rebecca Graham, Jim Duggan, Mary Self, Ben Kindem, Erin Goldenstein, Rebecca Kroiss, Pamela Powell, Lovice Brinkman.

Council Members Absent: Amanda Parks, Amanda Chorak, Holly Knupp, Rhonda Pence, Rita Armstrong, Theodis Pace, Rhonda Showers, Chrissy Nojd

9:00: Welcome, Permission to Record and Photo Release
Members agreed.

9:05: Introductions (Virtual/In-Person)

- Liz asked members to look back and share, if comfortable, what personal contribution or impact they hope to make to this council. A few comments shared:
 - Hope that programs can continue or will improve for children ages 5. Currently, at-home programs are for 0-3 leaving a gap before kindergarten
 - Emphasis on resources for families with limited incomes to feel trained as parents and ready for kindergarten
 - Socialization for adults/parents is necessary and lacking
 - Equity needed across the region

9:30: Community Agreement and Norms

- Members agreed, no further action needed

9:31: Birth to Five Illinois, Region 32 Home Page

- Liz reviewed our website with links

Google Drive Folder Review

- Liz reviewed Action Council Google Folder with resources

9:32:

Demographic Data Walk Review and Recap

- Reviewed Demographic Data with Regional Scan Questions with partners and discussed them as a group
 - See PowerPoint slides for findings
- Member stated, “There is a bigger gap than what we even know that is out there and it’s not based on color or income- it is all kids.”

10:27:

Slot Gap Data Review and Discussion

- Liz explained the slot gap and had several members give their numbers for PFA, Head Start, PFAE, etc.
 - See attached chart for numbers
- Based on the Birth to Five surveys for ISBE (continued/new need for ECE services):
 - Kankakee needs: PFA, Migrant HS, EI, ECE, SPED, Licensed Home or Daycare, Before & After School Care
 - Iroquois needs: PFAE, HS, Migrant Head Start, EI, ECE, SPED, Licensed Home or Daycare, Before & After School Care
- Discussed a great need for home services for the ages of 3-5 so parents have an option for maybe doing preschool or daycare but also having services come to the home so ready for kindergarten
 - Since Covid, a lot of parents, are not ready for people to come into their homes, and today, some parents are not wanting to send their kids to preschool
- Council member discussed bringing back *Model Parenting Training* to the area (used in the 90s) where families are mentored from newborn to kindergarten for services and socialization (both parents and children)
- Action member mentioned when discussing early intervention, “Covid not only took children away from other children but away from the world.”
- Missing contact between EI, kindergarten teachers, and parents where it noted what the child needs and adequate resources needed (socialization, occupational and speech therapy)
- Advocate for more relationship building between service providers and parents, and teachers and parents
- Families are not aware of resources available for 0-5 in the area and are not aware of what is defined as required or necessary before kindergarten

10:55:

Google Document with Slot Gap Questions

- Quickly reviewed slot gap questions/slides with a partner and will review them at the next meeting in February
- Information missing for slot gap:
 - Can we break it down 0-2 and 3-5
 - How many of the kids without slots are in daycare
 - Data missing from a specific area
- Liz asked action council members to think about the questions and respond on the google doc or bring them back to the next meeting

11:05:

Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations

Date: Feb. 2nd, 2023

Time: 9:00-11:00am

Location: KCC NEC & virtual

Date: Feb. 23rd, 2023

Time: 9:00-11:00am

Location: virtual only

11:07:

Preview Next Meeting (February- 2 Meetings)

- Meeting #1: Local Community Collaborations, preview questions
 - Possible missing collaborations- LIC, Project Sun, United Way, Pregnancy Resource Center, Park District, Advisory Boards (KCC, Health Dept)
 - Concentrating on the Focus Groups
 - Asked members to think about these groups
- Meeting #2: Priority Population, preview questions
- What do we have in place? What is needed?

11:12:

Adjourn