



MEETING NOTES

Region I-B-D Cook North Action Council Meeting

Location: Virtual or in person

Date & Time: January 9th, 2023, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Action Council members present: Clare Giuffrida, Kate Warach, Bettye Cohns, Kristen Ford, Carrie Rafalski, Amy Cocorikis, Lisa Merdinger, John Ranieri, Susan Cerza, Vikki Podlipni, Olga Khamichonak, Michele Ramsey, Nancy Mendez, Casche Knox, Chris Tokarski, Natalie Wood

Action Council members absent: Agnieszka Moroni, Sandra Alvarez, Peter J. Smith

3:00 pm: Welcome/ Introductions & Review of Community Agreements (30 minutes)

Notes: Ilinca welcomed everyone and introduced the new Action Council Members. 4 new members started at the January 9th meeting. Everyone had a chance to introduce themselves to the new members.

As an icebreaker activity she asked a question:

“Share a single word that reflects how you want to live in 2023”

Action Council members shared some thoughts and intentions for 2023 during the introduction.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

3:30 pm: Introduction to IAFC asset interactive map & Demographic Data Overview (15 minutes)

Notes: Ilinca presented to the Action Council members how to use the IAFC asset map. She showed them the different options they can adjust on the map to be able to see different demographic data. The Asset Map was used by Action Council members for discussion. Ilinca shared some slides with demographic data.

Decision made: The Asset Map and data PowerPoint can be used by Action Council members for reflection and discussion during the meeting and following the meeting. Ilinca shared the information will be placed in the shared google drive folder.

Next Steps: Members have the opportunity to explore various data points using the Asset Map.



3:45 pm: Small Group Discussion Explanation (5 minutes)

Notes: Ilinca explained to the Action Council members that she encouraged active discussions between the members about the demographic data and that she prepared 2 groups activities that we will continue after the break.

Decision made: Split into two groups after the break.

Next Steps: N/A

3:50 pm: Break (10 minutes)

4:00 pm: Small Group Discussion about Demographic Data (25 minutes)

Notes: Ilinca divided Action Council members into two groups so that they can discuss the detailed data presented in the slides that have been prepared for them in the jamboard slides.

- **Group 1:** #of Children 0-2, 3-5, location of children, working families with children, household English proficiency
- **Group 2:** Race and Ethnicity, number of children by age under the 100% and 200% federal poverty level

Small Group Discussion Questions:

What does this information tell us about our region?

What stands out to you?

Is this different than what you know?

Who is missing from the data?

What information is missing or would be helpful to better understand this data?

Why is it important to understand the demographics of our region?

Action Council members shared their feedback and asked some questions.

Decision made: Action Council members are interested in discussing Early Childhood Education and Care programs in the region.

Next Steps: Explore affordable housing in the region; ask if information about Early Intervention services is available. Review the meeting schedule and make updates to the order we are discussing topics.

4:25 pm: Share out from small group discussions (10 minutes)

Notes: Action Council Members had a chance to share what they discussed in small groups.



Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:35 pm: Large Group Discussion (5 minutes)

Notes: Ilinca asked Action Council members to answer the following questions via chat:

- How would you sum up the demographic landscape for Cook North?
- Why is this important to include in the scan?

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: Ilinca will include feedback from Action Council members in regional scan narrative.

4:40 pm: Update Family Council (10 minutes)

Notes: Irene Di Minervino shared updates about the Family Council meetings with the Action Council members. She shared that we have new Family Council members that will be joining the Family Council in January. She also shared information about family and community engagement activities for Region 1-B-D.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: Irene will be providing feedback from the Family Council members to the Action Council members.

4:50 pm: Brainstorm activity around Focus Groups and Interviews (5 minutes)

Notes: Ilinca informed the Action Council members that we want to hear as many voices from the community as possible and we are going to have Focus Groups and Interviews in our Region with different stakeholders and caregivers. A Focus Group or Interview offers other people in the Region the opportunity to tell us about their experiences, challenges, and needs with the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system. Ilinca asked Action Council members for suggestions about:

Whose voices do we need to hear from?

What connections do you have to help us reach these voices?

Decision made: The Action Council members suggested different groups of stakeholders and caregivers. Some of the Action Council members offered to help Region 1-B-D to connect with some organizations.



Next Steps: Ilinca will follow up with the Action Council members and begin making connections.

4:55 pm: Questions/Comments/Reflections (5 minutes)

Notes: The Action Council members shared the need to understand the demographics in our Region and not make assumptions about neighborhoods and parts of our region. They also showed interest in learning the number of available Early Childhood and Care (ECEC) spots in our region.

Decision made: Ilinca will adjust the topics of the next meetings so that the Action Council members can discuss the available programs in the region.

Next Steps: Meeting materials will be available in the shared google drive folder, calendar invite will be sent for the next meeting. Members will accept the invitation and confirm their attendance preference of coming in person or virtually.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 23rd, 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm

Date: January 23rd, 2023

Time: 3:00- 5:00

Location: Virtual or in-person