



AGENDA

Region 1-B-D Cook North Action Council Meeting

Location: Virtual or in person

Date & Time: March 20th, 2023, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Action Council members present: Agnieszka Moroni, Bettye Cohns, Clare Giuffrida, Kate Warach, Amy Cocorikis, John Ranieri, Susan Cerza, Lisa Merdinger, Carrie Rafalski, Vikki Podlipni, Edward Russell, Michele Ramsey, Tina Vanderwarker, Casche Knox, Cori Mohr, Chris Tokarski

Action Council members absent: Kristen Ford, Natalie Wood, Olga Khamichonak, Peter J. Smith

3:00 pm: Welcome/ Review of Community Agreements/ Regional Updates (10 minutes)

Icebreaker: Use an emoji to share how you are feeling today.

Ilinca welcomed everyone and went over the agenda. Ilinca thanked Bettye Cohns for presenting Cradle to Career at the Family Council Meeting. Ilinca shared that two of our Action Council members will present today, Carrie Rafalski on GoAeyc and Susan Cerza on TeachPlus.

Facilitator(s): Ilinca Wallace

3:10 pm: Slot Gap Discussion (30 minutes)

Ilinca went over the Region 1-B-D, Cook North data sets for slot gap. The Action Council members split up into two groups to discuss slot gap.

The following are highlights from this discussion.

1. What is the gap between the total number of children and early care and education programs and total services in the region? We have 14,076 children (21%) with slots and 55,311 (81%) of 69,387 children do not have slots.
2. What is the gap between publicly funded programs and children eligible for publicly funded programs in the region? Of the 7,462 children under the age of 3, only 1,106 have slot and 6,356 do not have slots. Of the 7,537 children 3-5, only 3,327 have slots and 4,213 do not have slots.
3. What does the data tell us about what our Region might need in the future?



- That we don't have enough data
 - That majority of children do not have slots and we don't have an understanding of why
4. What data is missing that would be helpful to have in order to make a better analysis of the slot gap?
- What classrooms and/or sites have closed, from existing centers, due to lack of teachers
 - What are all the different options of programs with slots?
 - How many families are looking for childcare now?
 - What are families preferring/use/need – stay home, nanny, friends and family, half day vs. full day programming... “underground network of care”
 - True cost of care for our area
5. What other indicators should be considered alongside the slot gap?
- Lack of teachers
 - Some families have nannies
 - Many do not qualify for CCAP and overwhelming paperwork
 - Finding childcare is challenging
 - Stay home parent – many can't afford childcare and work
6. What are the possible drivers of the gap in care in the region?
- Staffing crisis - Lack of teachers, retired teachers
 - Many closed childcares, family childcare homes
 - Challenging to open a new center/childcare due to DCFS licensing
 - Transportation/location of services
 - Families with children with disabilities may not trust the system to take care their children
 - Family choice- one stay at home parent, cultural reasons,
 - It seems to be a middle- class issue where both parents have to work

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace

3:40 pm: Presentations from Carrie Rafalski on GoAeyc (5 minutes)

Carrie Rafalski presented on GoAeyc to the Action Council. She highlighted the mission of GoAeyc, the events that they put on during the year and who they collaborate with.

3:45 pm: Susan Cerza – Teach Plus



Susan shared some information on TeachPlus, what she is working on and how they are advocating for policy change.

3:54 pm: Priority Populations Introduction (20 minutes)

Define Priority Populations
Illinois Risk and Reach Report
Focus Group Reflections
McKinney Vento

Ilinca introduced the topic of priority populations by providing the definition, the criteria that determine priority population and the groups that are titled as priority populations. She stated that we don't have good data that represents this population. Ilinca asked if anyone is missing from this list and what if anything surprises you. Ilinca stated that there's an increase of families seeking support that are experiencing homelessness. There are not many shelters or supports for those families. Ilinca presented the Illinois Risk and Reach Report as a resource.

Ilinca shared that we met with Journeys and Northwest Compass, and other programs that work with families to stabilize housing. Ilinca shared that we met with Dr. Bookler, the McKinney Vento contact for ROE 5.

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace

Decision made: Will start the next meeting with reflection questions. Ilinca will share more priority population data at the next meeting. Action Council members will share other languages spoken in our region.

4:10 pm: Break (7 minutes)

4:24 pm: Reflection on Regional Scan (30 minutes)

- 2 Small Group Discussions on Regional Scan
 - Demographics (15 minutes)
 - Slot Gap (15 minutes)

Ilinca had the larger group break out into 2 groups to review and discuss demographics and then Slot gap Regional Scan document. Ilinca invited the Action Council to review and modify the same document as the Family Council as way to make this a true collaborative effort.



4:50 Update from the Family Council (10 minutes)

Irene provided an update on the Family Council responses to the Action Council questions and reflection questions on Early Childhood programming in Cook North.

- What stands out to you about the programs that exist in our region? Programs are focusing on Ready for K and future education growth. There are areas without programming, and areas with a lot, program models don't account for working families.
- What has been most surprising about ECEC programs and services offered to families in our region? "Wedge a gap in the diversity of schooling based on income" – creates lack of diversity.
- What is your vision for change for ECEC for children and families in our region? Make childcare more affordable for working-class parents, more options for 2–5-year-olds, all children get full day care, free or sliding scale fee for all families regardless of care, quality government sponsored childcare.
- Does your race, ethnicity, or income level impact your ability to feel as if your family "belongs" in your child's care and education program? Assumptions about the family as low income based on the language I speak and race/ethnicity.
- How can educators communicate development with families in a way that is supportive and received by parents? Meet parents where they are, ask parents questions vs. assume, acknowledge and ask about the family background (culture, family values/beliefs), and speak with compassion and respect.

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

4:56 pm: Questions/Comments/Reflections (5 minutes)

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace

Next Meeting: Monday, April 3rd, 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm

Date: April 3rd, 2023

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Location: Virtual or in-person