



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 1-B-D Cook North Action Council Meeting

**Location:** Virtual or in person

**Date & Time:** March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

**Action Council members present:** Kristen Ford, Agnieszka Moroni, Bettye Cohns, Clare Giuffrida, Kate Warach, Amy Cocorikis, John Ranieri, Susan Cerza, Carrie Rafalski, Vikki Podlipni, Edward Russell, Tina Vanderwarker, Cori Mohr

**Action Council members absent:** Natalie Wood, Olga Khamichonak, Lisa Merdinger, Michele Ramsey, Peter J. Smith, Casche Knox, Chris Tokarski

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

**Icebreaker:** "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." The 2023 National Women's History theme. Who comes to mind for you?"

**Notes:** Ilinca invited Action Council members to share who comes to mind of Women who tell our stories. Council members shared women that have been making a difference in their local communities and in their personal lives, such as Robin Rue Simmons (Founder/Executive Director of First Repair), Erika Alexander, Lilian Katz (Leader in Early Childhood Education), and Judith Heumann (disability rights activist).

Ilinca shared with the council that we have completed three focus groups - Early Intervention Service Coordinators, dual-language families, and with Polish Early Childhood providers hosted by our partner, Illinois Action for Children. Additionally, we've had several meetings with leaders that support priority populations and have several other meetings coming were informed us about the change in the submission date of our regional scan; this will impact our current meeting schedule.

**Decision made:** Ilinca will share more with the Council after looking at the calendar.

**Next Steps:** Ilinca will ask for input via google forms/emails going forward.

**Facilitator(s):** Ilinca Wallace



### **3:10 pm: Presentations from Action Council Members on Collaborations (50 minutes)**

**Notes:** The following Action Council Members presented on Collaborations and Coalitions. All council members have been provided with materials for the information that was presented.

**Presenters:**

- Bettye Cohns: Evanston Cradle to Career <http://evanstonc2c.org/>
- Kate Warach: Jewish United Fund Early Childhood Collaborative
- Tina Vanderwarker: Evanston Early Childhood Council <https://www.evanstonearlychildhood.org/> and Niles Township Early Childhood Alliance <https://www.nilestownshipeco.org/eca>
- Kristen Ford: United Palatine Coalition <https://www.upcoalition.org/> Palatine Early Learning Alliance

**Facilitators:** Bettye Cohns, Kate Warach, Tina Vanderwarker, Kristen Ford, Vikki Podlipni, Clare Giuffrida, Ilinca Wallace

**Decision made:** N/A

**Next Steps:** N/A

### **4:00 pm: Break (5 minutes)**

### **4:05 pm: Presentations from Action Council Members on Collaborations continued... (50 minutes)**

**Notes:** Action Council members continued their presentations followed by reflection questions on Collaborations and Coalitions.

**Presenters:**

- Vikki Podlipni: Providers in Action
- Clare Giuffrida: Early Intervention Coalition

**Highlights from Collaboration/Coalition discussion:**

1. What is the region's community collaboration landscape?
  - Niles Township/ Partner Plan Act; Wilmette, Evanston, Skokie
  - Workforce impacts the landscape and work for every sector.



- Richness of resources but not aware of all the groups.
2. Are there areas of the region where there are no community collaborations?  
Mt Prospect, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Prospect Heights, Schaumburg, Elk Grove Village, Hoffman Estates.
  3. How does it connect with the broader regional community systems work?
    - There should be an umbrella group to coordinate and collaborate with the groups as they all seem to be doing similar work.
    - Other thoughts shared: that we need to elevate the voices of different sectors with DCFS reps.
  4. What questions are unasked/unanswered about local collaborations in your region? Why are there no Collaborations in some areas but more than one in other areas (Palatine, Evanston, etc.)?
  5. What questions should be asked of local collaboration leaders in our region?  
What information can you share with us on the needs of the families and children within your Coalition? Are there patterns in these needs that we can address as a Regional Council?

**Decision made:** Ilinca invited everyone to share their feedback in Jamboard.  
To complete the rest of the presentations at the next Council meeting

**Next Steps:** Ilinca Wallace: The Alliance for Early Childhood  
<https://theallianceforec.org/> and Carrie: Illinois Association for the education of Young Children (AEYC) will present at the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **4:55 pm: Slot Gap Discussion (2 minutes)**

What are the possible drivers of the gap in care in the region?

What data is missing, that would be helpful to have in order to make a better analysis of the slot gap?

What other indicators should be considered alongside the slot gap?

What does the data tell us about what our Region might need in the future?

**Decision made:** To move this discussion to the March 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

**Next Steps:** Will start the next meeting with discussion on Slot gap.

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace



**4:57 pm: Update from the Family Council (2 minutes)**

**Decision made:** Irene will provide the Family Council update, from our final discussion on ECEC and Slot gap, at the next Action Council meeting.

**Next Steps:** Irene invited the Action Council to present their Collaboration/Coalition at the 3/15 Family Council meeting. Irene invited the Council members to write any follow-up thoughts/questions in the chat that they would like us to bring to the Family Council.

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

**4:59 pm: Questions/Comments/Reflections (1 minute)**

**Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace**

Next Meeting: Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm

Date: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Time: 3:00- 5:00

Location: Virtual or in-person