



Meeting Minutes

Region 1-B-D Cook North Action Council Meeting

Location: Virtual or in person

Date & Time: July 10th, 2023, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Action Council members present: Kristen Ford, Bettye Cohns, Clare Giuffrida, Kate Warach, Amy Cocorikis, Lisa Merdinger, Carrie Rafalski, Vikki Podlipni, Casche Knox

Action Council members absent: Olga Khamichonak, Peter J. Smith, Agnieszka Moroni, John Ranieri, Susan Cerza, Michele Ramsey, Tina Vanderwarker, Cori Mohr, Chris Tokarski

3:00 pm: Welcome/ Review of Community Agreements/ Regional Updates (22 minutes)

Notes: Ilinca welcomed the Action Council members and reviewed the community agreements. She shared the updates from Region 1-B-D and reminded everyone that the recruitment for Action Council and Family Council is open until the end of summer.

As an icebreaker activity, she asked the question:

“If you could write a book, what would it be about?”

Some answers from the Action Council members:

- Adventure children’s book with robots with disabilities
- Science book
- Butterfly book
- Importance of early childhood play
- Culturally relevant and meaningful activities to do with children in the classroom and at home.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace

3:22 pm Small group discussion about Action Council recruitment (23 minutes)

Notes: Action Council members were divided into small groups to answer the following questions:



“Who is missing from our Action Council? Who would diversify the voices represented?”

Some of the answers included:

- Business owners
- Mental health providers
- Legislators
- Faith-based leaders
- Policy council parents- head start/early head start
- Pediatricians from local practices
- Staff from local Chambers of Commerce
- DCFS Representative Current or Previous/ Anyone from DCFS
- Various Therapists such as speech, etc.
- Different teachers for other areas- Infant, toddler, Pre-K, Head Start, etc.
- Advocacy team person (Action for Children, Start Early, We the Village, etc)

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: The team will recruit potential Action Council members that reflect the sectors where there are gaps.

Facilitator(s): Ilinca Wallace

3:45 pm: Regional Needs Assessment Update and Dissemination Plan (5 minutes)

Notes: Ilinca shared an update about the release of the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment. The Council was introduced to the breakout activity, to review the dissemination plan, prior to going on a 10-minute break.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: Ilinca will share the Regional Needs Assessment with the council as soon as it is released.

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace

3:50 pm: 10-minute Break

4:00 pm: Regional Needs Assessment Dissemination Plan continued... (30 minutes)

Notes: Action Council members reviewed the dissemination plan with organizations, schools, programs, collaborations, and others. Council members were able to add and update the list of stakeholders to contact for the dissemination plan and/or add meeting dates, follow-up items, contact information etc.



Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: Ilinca will update the dissemination plan and email it to the Action Council members. Action Council members will let Ilinca know about any upcoming meetings where we can share the Regional Needs Assessment.

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace

4:30 pm Reflection on Action Council Year 1 (25 minutes)

Notes: Action Council members reflect on Year 1 of the Action Council.

The questions were used to share reflections from the last year. Action Council members shared that they enjoy being part of the council, collaborating with others, learning about new programs and organizations, hearing new perspectives, and having a sense of community. Some of the areas of growth is having more time to analyze data and having more time in break-out rooms during small group activities. The members are excited about the implementation of our recommendations.

The Action Council would like to spend some time in the August meeting discussing the roles of the other members and reviewing the concepts of the World Café training.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: We will learn about other members' professions at the next meeting.

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace

4:50 pm: Learning Together (5 minutes)

Notes: Sharing research, upcoming events, interesting articles etc.

Place Matters: What Surrounds Us Shapes Us

Decision made: Council members can share articles, research, and interesting data for us to learn from one another.

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace

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

Notes: N/A

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: Next meeting Zoom Action Council celebration at the end of the meeting.

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace

Next Meeting: Monday, August 14th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm