



MEETING NOTES

Region 51 Action Council Meeting

Location: 1209 S. 4th Street

Date & Time: Thursday February 9th, 2023 from 6-8pm

Council Members present: Mitch Baker, Lingling Liu, Christine Craddock, Kendra Day, Wendy Williams, Laura Pickrell, Lindsay Sleade, Debbie Tisckos, Connie Shugart, Jill Larson, Lajewell White, Jamar Scott, LeAnn Bell

Council Members Absent: Saraya Curry, Ya'Shika Reed, Kayla Miller, Apryl Edwards, Lori Harrison, Kevi Jackson, Laurie Rhodes, Tracie Sampson, Tiffani Saunders

6:00 pm: Community Agreements and Future Meetings Discussion (15 minutes)

Data Answer Sheet Question: *You're a parent that recently found employment. You are trying to find a quality child care center, you find a great fit, however, it doesn't provide transportation to the Preschool for all program your child is enrolled in. What do you do?*

- *Ask the preschool for other resources*
- *Ask for help on Facebook*
- *Speak to my employer to see if there are options. Can I change my hours?*

Notes: Ashley went over the community agreements and asked the council the data answer sheet question. A few members shared their answers. Ashley went over our future meetings which are the second Thursday of every month, with the next one being March 9th covering Early Childhood Collaborations and Priority Populations.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:15 pm: Slot Gap definition, Population of Children, and Child Care Capacity (5 minutes)

Data Answer Sheet Question: *What other indicators should be considered alongside the slot gap?*

Notes: Ashley went over the definition of slot gap. She explained that it's when there are more children eligible for enrollment in early childhood education and care than there are actual spots available. Ashley introduced the graph of child care capacity in each county. She also mentioned the birth rate data from each county that members asked for during our last meeting. There are 8,870 children ages birth-5, who cannot be enrolled if they wanted to today due to the capacity in Sangamon and Menard counties. 62% of our children are not enrolled today.

- *There are waitlists because there's a lack of employees.*
- *The effective slot gap is even bigger than what we're seeing here.*



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:25 pm: Location of Early Childhood Education and Care Providers, Locations of Children ages 0-6, and Number of Sites and Capacity by Child Care Type (10 minutes)

Data Answer Sheet Question: What is the gap between the total number of children and early childhood care and education programs?

Notes: Ashley went over the locations of the Early Childhood Education and Care providers in comparison to the location of children ages 0-6. She also went over the number of sites in Sangamon and Menard counties and the capacity of children by child care type.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:35 pm: Publicly Funded Early Childhood Education & Care Slot Gap Data, Number of Sites and Capacity, and Location of Early Childhood Education & Care Sites. (25 minutes)

Data Answer Sheet Questions: What is the gap between publicly funded programs and children's eligibility for publicly funded programs in the region? What data is missing that would be helpful to have in order to make a better analysis of the slot gap?

Notes: Ashley introduced the Publicly Funded early childhood education and care slot gap. A member asked, *what are the income guidelines*. Ashley answered, for Head Start, 90% of their enrollment must be at 100% eligibility. Ashley explained that if children ages 0-2 wanted to enroll today, 89% of them couldn't. The members had an issue with the 200% data being pulled because *"It's not valid so it sets us up for failure while we're trying to come up with solutions."* Ashley said she would get the 100% data. A member shared that there's a scholarship available for those who are interested in becoming a teacher called, ECACE (Early Childhood Access for Consortium for Equity). *"We need to factor in the number of children who need specialized needs. That's why our special needs kids aren't getting care because who can pay for a traveling aid?"* Ashley then introduced the Home Visiting Programs in Sangamon and Menard Counties.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Ashley will get the 100% data to compare to the 200% data.

6:50 pm: Children Utilizing Services, Child Care Assistance Program Payment Data, Early Intervention Data, and 100% Federal Poverty Level Data. (20 minutes)



Data Answer Sheet Questions: What is the gap between the total number of children and the total services in the region? What does the data tell us about what our region might need in the future? What are the possible drivers of the gap in care in the region?

Notes: Ashley introduced the Child Care Assistance Program.

- *Undocumented neighbors may not know how to fill out the paperwork, so can they apply?*
- *You can work from home as long as you're not working for yourself.*

Ashley went over the CCAP usage by family and provider location, the difference between ECEC providers who do not take CCAP and the usage of CCAP and the provider location chart. Ashley introduced the data on Early Intervention.

- *There are some impacts on these numbers since covid because of socialization.*
- *We need a simple way to communicate with people to keep them educated. We need a childcare hotline.*
- *Communication amongst organizations is not the best way of communicating because they often compete for the same funds.*

Ashley went over the Early Intervention numbers on the map.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

7:20 pm: Group Discussion over the following questions: (25 minutes)

1. What is the gap between the total number of children and total services in the region?
2. Is there anything from the discussion last time that can contribute to the understanding of the slot gap in this region?
3. What does the data tell us about what our Region might need in the future?
4. Who is missing from this conversation that needs to be included?

Notes: Ashley went over the questions on the data answer sheet.

- *Every family needs to be followed up with - with or without childcare leaving the hospital.*
- *Universal home visitors are offered - have the right to deny but it's offered.*
- *Get a phone call in the hospital/or home birth and immediately ask them if they need these services.*

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

7:45 pm: Reminders: Data Sources, Agenda for Future Council Meetings, Foundational Trainings, and How to Connect. (15 minutes)

Notes: Ashley briefly went over the data sources, the agenda for future meetings, and how to connect.



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Follow-up/Next Steps: Send a reminder email for the next meeting on March 9th, 2023