



MEETING NOTES

Region 51 Action Council Meeting

Location: 1209 S. 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703

Date & Time: Thursday, January 19th 2023, from 6:00-8:00pm

Council Members present: Tracie Sampson, Mitch Baker, Christine Craddock, Kendra Day, Apryl Edwards, Savannah Wilken, Tiffany Saunders, Debbie Tiskos, Ya'Shika Reed, Connie Shugart, Jill Larson, Kayla Miller, Violet Wiker, LeAnn Bell.
Hybrid: Wendy Williams.

Council Members absent: Jamar Scott, Kevi Jackson, Saraya Curry, Lingling Liu, Lindsay Sleade, Lajewell White, Laurie Rhodes, Laura Pickrell.

6:00-6:15pm: Community Agreements, Ice breaker: Name, Who You Represent, County you serve, What did you want to be when you grew up?, Future Meetings Discussion (15 minutes)

- Data Answer Sheet Question: What do you think we change now with the resources at the table?
 - *I didn't know about these certain resources in the community until my current job. I think we should introduce the resources to the community instead of when something tragic happens.*
 - *There's a huge booklet for resources that needs to come back.*
 - *You can call 211 with a problem and health and human service info will be provided to you.*
 - *Reaching diverse populations*
 - *Collaboration between organizations.*
 - *Advocate for more professionals in the field, everyone has a bad taste of the field because they don't get paid much. Lack of staff.*
 - *Designated doctor and mental health doctors in each school district*
 - *True problem solving of problems that face our children and families. I often see that there are many meetings and not always outcomes. A possible shared-service model for services.*

Notes: Ashley went over the community agreements and asked if any needed to be added - members answered no. Ashley went over the next meeting date and time. Ashley went over the first data answer sheet question and asked members to share.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a



6:15-6:25pm: Demographics - Data of Population of Children, Bar Graph of Number of Children by Race/Ethnicity (10 minutes)

- Data Answer Sheet Question: *What do you notice about the location of different racial/ethnic families?*

Notes: Ashley went over the data of the population of children. A member asked if we could pull more accurate numbers from School District 186. A member suggested finding the ISBE report card. Another member suggested calling the hospital to see how many live births they had in 2020. Members said the numbers by race bar graph is off by 2,000 children. A member shared that reporting your race/ethnicity is not mandatory and is complicated while filling out the census. There is missing data because the information is not forced. A member found the number of live births - 2,164 in Sangamon County and 116 live births in Menard County. Ashley asked the members if the data was too far off to present - they suggested converting the numbers to percentages because they may align better to the overall population for the bar graph of number of children by race/ethnicity. Ashley asked if the Action Council knew where the hispanic/latino population were living. A member suggested Family Matters. Another suggested The Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program. A couple of members gave exact locations of Hispanic and Indian populations. Ashley also shared that Birth to Five was working with Western Dreamers and Illinois Migrant.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

6:25-6:35pm: Bar Graph of Children ages 0-5, Map of Location of Children 0-5 (10 minutes)

- Data Answer Sheet Questions: *What does this information tell us about our region? What stands out to you about this map?*

Notes: Ashley presented the data. A member said Illinois' child population is decreasing in Illinois. But it might even out because of COVID babies. Ashley presented the map to the Action Council. Those who represent Menard county said that the map is pretty relative with children living there 5 and under.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a



6:35-6:50pm: Federal Poverty Level Data (15 minutes)

- Data Answer Sheet Questions: Can families within those FPL's afford care? Does this number speak true to you?
 - *No, this is still not enough to afford to live or pay for child care.*
 - *No, they are deciding between bills and food event with state assistance.*
 - *The short answer is no.*
 - *How can you find a babysitter from 8-4 or 4-10?*
 - *When talking about poverty, child care is not taken into account.*

Notes: Ashley introduced the Federal Poverty Level data. Members said the 100% Federal Poverty Level data map was accurate - closest to downtown Springfield, that's correct. They shared that this is the most accurate data piece shared tonight. A member said that Athens School District kids don't qualify for the free school lunch program - so the map is true. Ashley went over the 200% Federal Poverty Level data map and members agreed that the maps were deemed accurate. A member shared that there's a different tax bracket breakdown for the 200% Federal Poverty Level now.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

6:50-7:10pm: IECAM Map and IAFC Map of the Location of ECEC Providers (20 minutes)

- Data Answer Sheet Question: What do you notice about the location of Early Childhood Education and Care Providers?
 - *There are none.*
 - *Very spread out.*
 - *I don't even see my center on there!*
 - *Not equitable.*
 - *Not easily accessible for families.*
 - *There should be a green and blue dot (Head Start/Early Head Start) in Petersburg and there's not*

Notes: Ashley went over the data using the IECAM and IAFC map of the locations of early childhood and education and care providers. Ashley asked the members to share their answers from the data answer sheet.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a



7:10-7:20pm: Working Families (10 minutes)

- Data Answer Sheet Question: *Does this data speak the truth?*
 - *"No, I don't like this one"*
 - *"This data is confusing."*
 - *"Does this mean both parents are working?"*

Notes: After Ashley presented the data, there was discussion about how to read the data chart for working families. A member said, we need to be cautious looking at the COVID data because of its limitations. Other members agreed.

Decisions made: How to read the chart - columns 3 and 5 equal column 2.

Next Steps: n/a

7:20-7:45pm: Break out Session in Groups (Groups: FPL, Location of Providers, Race/Ethnicity, Number of Children) (15 minutes)

- Who's missing from this conversation?
- What impact did COVID have on ECEC in your subject area?
- Where are the strengths located throughout the community?
- Why is it important to include this information in the scan?

Notes: Ashley had the Action Council members answer these questions on their data answer sheet.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

7:45-8:00pm: Data Sources Reminder, Reminder of Agenda for Council Meetings, Foundational Trainings Reminder, Family Council Report and How to Connect (15 minutes)

Notes: Ashley reminded the Action Council of data sources, agenda for future council meetings and Foundational Trainings. Amanda gave her Family Council report from the night before. Ashley went over how to connect.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: Send reminder email for next meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 9th, 2023

Time: 6-8pm

Location: 1209 South 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703 (if you need Teams please reach out to Ashley prior to the meeting for arrangements)