



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 9 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 1-3 pm

#### Attendance:

Council Members present in person: N/A virtual meeting

Council Members present virtually: Kelly Russell, Marguerite Bailey, Nichole Kitchens, Rachel Charters, Donald Gill, Tonya Carter, Brenda Eastham, Tyler Reynolds, Brandi Granse, Kim Ray, Lily Jimenez, Jonathan Woods, Aliaksandra Smolskaya

Council Members Absent: Lynn O'Dell, Ha Young Choi

Presenting and Zoom point: Caitlyn Scarbro

Tech: Jackie Charles

#### Welcome and Review of Action Council Meeting 3: (20 minutes)

Notes:

Caitlyn Scarbro presented the agenda for the meeting, reviewed the Community Agreements, and briefly went over the main points of Meeting 3.

Followed up on conversation about Early Intervention (EI) Data

- Numbers not included for waitlist numbers
- Expressed a need for translators and other service providers for EI

#### Temperature Check: (10 minutes)

Caitlyn Scarbro posed questions to the Councils.

What have you enjoyed about our meeting?

- Collaboration with parents and other members of the community
- Networking within the community

What would you like to see more of in 2023?

- Bridging the gaps between entities



- Excitement about family voice on Council and the parent perspective

### **Local Collaborations Presentation & Discussion: (30 minutes)**

Presented by: Kelly Russell and Rachel Charters

- Discussed the Home Visitors Consortium's purpose, mission, and function
- Detailed the 8 different programs within the Consortium and their individual aims
- Goal to not duplicate services and create a system of care
- Each program has specific areas of interest, specialized staff training, and designated specialty areas
- Meetings occur monthly
- Abide by open-door communication for families to have their needs met through a coordinated referral form

#### **Discussion:**

- Lack of male home visitors; have connected with groups of dads and single fathers for events
- Workforce issues; not enough staff; changing qualifications for various Early Child Care Educators

#### **Break (5 min)**

### **County Break Down & Discussion (30 minutes)**

#### **What could this look like in Ford County? Champaign County?**

#### **Ford County Questions:**

- What benefit could we see from a local collaboration?
- What organizations already exist that could provide these benefits with more resources?

#### **Council members discussed the following:**

- Parents have said they do not know the resources even existed
- Parents typically hear about resources only through word of mouth and don't know where or how to get access



- Frustration of parents to learn about new resources- indicative of new initiatives that don't last
- Could be due to a lack of knowledge of the community landscape
- Resources have been lacking for so long it creates a barrier to building trust

#### **Champaign County Questions:**

- **What is missing or needs more support in our current collaborations?**
- **What is community perception of our collaboration landscape?**

#### **Council members discussed the following:**

- Lack of language supports; there are so many different languages and cultures and it has been difficult to find the necessary resources
- More support is needed for Medicaid
- Families are under the assumption that they cannot use resources because many are rejected; barriers to access and not meeting local needs

#### **Large Group Discussion: (20 minutes)**

Council members discussed the following questions and used a Jamboard to summarize their thoughts indicated by bullet points below.

- **What are existing collaborations or community groups working on?**
  - o Spreading knowledge about programs to families
  - o Funds provided for translation services, screening kits in various languages
  - o Funds to help with language costs for home visitors (e.g. degrees, certificates, etc.)
  - o "Home growing" development of staff for various programs
  - o Differential payment for employees who speak different languages (can increase per number of languages)
- **Are there areas of the region where there are no community collaborations?**
  - o Rural areas have a lesser reach to services
  - o Exacerbated by translation service barriers
- **How does it connect with the broader regional community systems work?**
  - o Less access for non-English speaking families
  - o There are open positions for interpretation services, expressed a need for a larger pool of candidates (emphasis on healthcare)



- Barrier to candidate pool being formal certification versus work/lived experience
- There are no positions for employees with masters degrees at facilities- expressed a need for this to improve quality of care
- **If there is no local collaboration: Are there areas that might be ready for a local collaboration? If so, what supports might they need to begin? If not, then what needs to happen before a local collaboration can begin?**
  - Ford County- Building trust and awareness of existing programs; not enough people to create a local collaboration
  - Referrals- typically a quick process; would like to dig deeper with families to asses and facilitate better services/care
- **What questions are unasked/unanswered about local collaborations in your region?**
  - Ford County Local Interagency Council (LIC) does reach out to CCRS when in need of child care resources
  - Mileage reimbursement for home visitors servicing rural areas that have grant restrictions
- **What questions should be asked of local collaboration leaders in your region?**
  - How can you refer to other agencies in a way that works for families?
  - Are providers not referring to other services due to not wanting to “lose” them to another service provider?

Other Feedback:

- Financial barriers for families receiving services such as co-pays, center feeds, and subsidies
- Some of the services provided are transitional (e.g. family foundations referring home visiting services to families)
- Language barrier was revisited again as families seek out services that have appropriate language supports
- Short staffing; other workforce issues

**Meeting Wrap-Up: (5 minutes)**

- Reminder of virtual office hour that is offered one time a month



- Asked if Council members needed any additional materials in their individual binders
- Updated the Council that Rachel Spencer (Senator Scott Bennett's Legislative Assistant) is no longer seated on the Council after Senator Bennett's tragic passing

### **Action Council Meeting 5**

Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, 1 pm – 3 pm