



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 9 Action Council Meeting

**Location: 601 Main Street. Suite 211. Mahomet, IL 61853**

**Date & Time: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. 1:00pm-3:00pm**

**Council Members present:** Marguerite Bailey, Jonathan Woods, Tyler Reynolds, Kelly Russell, Lynn O'Dell, Aliaksandra Smolskaya, Nicole Kitchens, and Brenda Eastham.

**Council Members via Zoom:** Tonya Carter, Ha Young Choi, Rachel Charters, and Lily Jimenez.

**Council Members absent:** Donald Gill, Kim Ray, Brandi Granse.

#### **1:00pm Welcome and Review of Community Agreements & Meeting 4 (20 minutes)**

Notes: No one had questions for this topic.

#### **1:20pm Meeting Warm-Up Question: What priority populations are we missing from our Council(s)? What strategies can we use to amplify the voice of these groups? (10 minutes)**

Notes: The Council agreed that parents of children who speak a different language at home, incarcerated parents, foster parents, and grandparents raising grandchildren are priority populations that we are missing from our councils.

- "Trying to find data to support this has been difficult. There is no data for Spanish speaking families who have children ranging in age birth to five."
- We need inclusive classrooms for all children.
- "It is my understanding that children benefit from being in school that speaks English."
- "If children have an opportunity to grow their first language, they can learn another language. We need to provide things in their native language. Dual language programs are necessary so they can have duality."
- "We need to look at including families in the area in the conversation rather than professionals. No disrespect. There are struggles with the duality of them knowing their native language due to how some language is translated. It is not always correct and that poses a problem and we need to have a bigger conversation."
- "I think hearing immigrant, migrant and refugee families is missing in our early childhood education system."



- "We need to look at academic vs. social language."
  - "We should do surveys to find out what families really need."
  - "Can we really reach the homeless population?"
  - "Children birth to five are not required to go to school so this data really hurts us."
  - "Kids whose grandparents can provide medical care and these children are not tracked and are also not in a priority population. We need more information/data."
- Decisions made: We need current data for priority populations in our region.

### **1:30pm- Priority Populations (30 minutes)**

Notes: Caitlyn gives the definition of priority population. She then went on to define criteria and groupings of priority populations. She asked the council about the groupings to see if anyone had any questions. Council members asked about foster children and children of parents who are currently incarcerated, grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, children of parents who suffer from mental illness, and teen parents.

-Caitlyn showed a graph of the Community report-household language and number of households speaking Spanish and other languages.

-Council member asked; "Do we know the other languages?" We do not know other languages due to the data that was collected being from the census and people answer according to how they self-identify.

-Next Slide-Graph showing the K-3 Risk Indicators for our region. The number of children who have an IEP (according to the data) in Ford County was shocking to some members of the council. The data also showed that Champaign has a higher number of teen parents than Ford County.

-Members of the council wanted a breakdown of the teen parent data that is being presented. Caitlyn was able to breakdown the data and provide clarifying information to the council's question.

-The council wanted to know how many teen parents are currently enrolled in high school. The data presented was from 2020 so we are unable to answer that question at this time.

-Next Slide-Homeless Data. Caitlyn explained the data that she was presenting and informed the council that the data was from 2020.

-Council member asked if the data was separated out white and Hispanic because to their knowledge, the former data combined Hispanic and white. To our knowledge, white and Hispanic people were separated.



-Next Slide-Homelessness and Housing Assistance. Council members did not agree with the data that was presented. Once they were informed that the data was from 2016-2019, it made more sense to them.

-The council informed us that teen parents are considered “homeless” under the law in Illinois.

-Next Slide-DCFS involvement chart-Youth in care by county.

-Council members wanted to know if the data being presented included families that foster in our county but the children in their care were born outside of our region. The answer that was presented was that the data was pulled from [www.illinois.gov](http://www.illinois.gov)

-Next Slide-Education Attainment. Data was pulled from the Erikson Institute.

-Question from Council-What does maternal education mean? Answer-the education level of the mother who was giving birth at that time.

-Council wanted to know if this data would change in 2 years after the ECAce program was complete.

-Next Slide-Children with disabilities. Children aged 0-2.

-Council wanted to know of the data being presented reflected children who have an active IEP?

-One council member informed us that over 100 children in Champaign and Vermillion county are currently on the list for speech therapy.

-Data reflects children who have an active IEP and are in the classroom.

-Council agreed that the waiting list for services is too long.

-Council members did not have an opinion on if the data being shown was accurate to what they see in their work. They said the data was too old. They did feel that the data about Ford County seemed to be correct.

-Next Slide-Migration Policy Institute Data-2021

-Council wanted to know if the data being presented included immigrants by date of arrival and how old were they. The council was informed that the data is from the census and is self-reported.

-Council members said that immigrants might not self-report for fear of deportation and other issues.

-One council member shared that she is an immigrant, but her children were born here in the US.

Decisions made: Work on finding out the current teen pregnancy rate is in the US and in Illinois. Find someone to help us get current data on the unhoused population

Next Steps: Get in touch with some of the people the council suggested to us.



### **2:05-Large Group Discussion (30 minutes)**

Questions- 1) What do you notice about the location of different racial/ethnic families, the location of early childcare populations, etc.?

The information that we received was expected. Rural areas are suffering from no childcare centers, and transportation. More data is out there we just don't know how to get it.

2) What other information has been gathered about priority populations from talking with organizations?

Home visitors are doing more than their job entails. They are making sure children have their medicine and checking in on the mother's well-being. A lot of community connections. There is a need for more bilingual speaking home visitors. They make sure the mother is doing well so that can in turn make sure the children are doing well and have their needs supported.

3) What data is missing or unavailable on these priority populations? Answer-Data needs to be updated. Council member said Caitlyn did a good job presenting the data that was provided and available. Also that we must dive into Ford County to find out about getting resources. Focus on diversity within priority populations. Breakdown all populations so that everyone has a place and can get the help they need. Native Americans vs. immigrant. What if mom is an immigrant and dad is native American, how does that child identify?

4) Are these programs in place to support migrant, immigrant, and refugee families? If so, what are those? Are they located in a place that can easily reach these families/communities? Public health has space to house many resources. It is also on the bus route. If public transportation is available, there are resources within reach.

### **2:55-Meeting Wrap-Up (5 minutes)**

Family Council Update- Jackie informed the Action Council that the Family Council has looked over some data and at their next meeting they will be looking at the Slot Gap. She informed them that the Family Council now has representation from Ford County.

**Next meeting-February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm**

**Location: 601 E Main St. Suite 211 Mahomet, IL 61853**