



Action Council All Member Meeting

Action Council Members

Date: October 16, 2023

Attendees

Council members present: Aimee Hart, Gina Ruther, Chinita King, Florence Cheers Lawrence, Kaelin Richardson, Sylvia Nunn, Jaqueline Chacon, Makisha Binns, Nicole Warren, Shameka Brown, Stephanie Kraft Sheley, Wendy Williams

Council members absent: Gina Harding, Jessica Seger, Janice Moenster, Shamyra Brown, Audrey Gonzalez, Emily Alvarez, Mariah Tolson

Agenda

1. Introductions/ Icebreaker
 - a. Family and Community Engagement Specialist, Chrystal Anthony-Sims, introduced herself to the council.
 - b. Icebreaker
2. Review the Recommendations chosen.
 - a. The Recommendations are as follows:
 - i. Connect all staff and programs to supports, resources, and professional development.
 - ii. Conduct outreach and promotion to the community for the available ECEC resources and services.
 - iii. Explore opportunities for high schools to participate in the Level 1 ECE resources and services.
 - b. Discussion around Recommendation 1
 - i. Add language of special education, trauma-informed care, and mental health.

Recommendation changes pending approval of Family Council: Connect all staff and programs to supports, resources, and professional development around special education, trauma-informed care, and mental health.

3. Plan for Action Council Schedule
 - a. October
 - i. October 26th Workgroup Meeting (5:30-7:30pm)
 - b. November
 - i. November 14th Action Council Meeting (10:00-12:00pm)
 - ii. November 30th Workgroup Meeting (5:30-7:30pm)



- c. December
 - i. December 11th Action Council Meeting (10:00-12:00pm)
 - ii. December 19th Workgroup Meeting (5:30-7:30pm)
 - d. January
 - i. January 18th Action Council Meeting (10:00-12:00pm)
 - ii. January 25th Workgroup Meeting (5:30-7:30pm)
 - e. Calendar invites were shared October 9th, 2023 in an email and through calendar invites. All meetings will be held as hybrid meetings with both in person and virtual options, unless otherwise noted.
4. Recommendation: Connect all staff to support, resources, and professional development.
- a. Why was this recommendation made?
 - i. Ensure that the ECEC workforce has the appropriate support to ensure that children and families receive the services needed.
 - ii. Staff do not currently receive this support and as a result, children are not having their needs met.
 - iii. Proper training and support.
 - iv. To connect existing resources to improve access and quality.
 - v. Everyone needs to know what resources are available.
 - b. What data supports the recommendation?
 - i. Quantitative
 - 1. 2020- 861 children three to five with an IEP
 - 2. 2020- 284 children receiving Early Intervention Services
 - 3. 2021 KIDS- only 28% of kindergartners demonstrated readiness in all three areas.
 - 4. 2020- 69 of the 2,780 Kindergarteners in St. Clair County were reported meeting the definition of homelessness.
 - 5. 8,697 of the children under 5 (total: 18,309) are living at or below the 200% Poverty level.
 - ii. Qualitative
 - 1. "I have requirements around curriculum, assessment, screening, family engagement, ratios, special education services, Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R), and all the other requirements that my administrator has within the school. These requirements don't always align with each other, and it is hard to determine which is more important. It is exhausting to keep up with everything, especially when you have no planning time." - Early Childhood Provider



2. "My staff is overworked and underpaid. We continue to ask them to do more and more each year. Providing care for children with high needs without the support they need adds stress and causes burnout." - Early Childhood Administrator
5. SMART Goals
 - a. Council members began the discussion on developing SMART goals that will be continued.
6. Announcements / Questions
 - a. Join us at local Trunk or Treat at Sierra Honda.



Before next meeting...

- Review the Google Drive data and our Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment for Region 50 around staff development.

Guest Speaker

- Collaborative Communication- IECAM 12:00-1:00pm (Optional)