



Action & Family Council Workgroup Planning.

Date: October 12, 2023.

Attendees.

Council members present: Tranae Brockhouse, Christy Jean, Jessica Palazzolo, Laura Roberts.

Agenda.

1. Introductions.
 - a. Members introduced themselves and shared their favorite fall activity.
2. Group agreements.
 - a. Community Agreements were reviewed as a Council. Members agreed to abide by the current Community Agreements within our meeting space and know they will be shared every meeting to open them back up for discussion.
3. Action Plan.
 - a. The Action Plan includes the top three recommendations voted by the Councils from the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment.
4. CQI.
 - a. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is a method used by organizations to make things better and more efficient over time. It involves constantly looking for ways to improve, focusing on making small, incremental changes to implement change over time.
 - b. We will be moving our recommendations forward by using CQI to create our Action Plan.
5. Introduce workgroups and discuss how they will work.
 - a. Workgroups will be utilized to develop our Action Plans for our top three recommendations. We will be creating SMART Goals and developing action steps to move our recommendations forward.
6. Review of SMART Goals.
 - a. SMART goals are important to our work because they break down the steps to implementing recommendations into small, manageable pieces.
 - b. This allows for more community buy-in and gives us all the ability to adjust our goals and the steps to reaching those goals if something doesn't work or is accomplished ahead of schedule.



7. Review of recommendations chosen by Councils, why recommendations were made, and data to support the recommendations.
 - a. **Recommendation 1: Expanding birth to three services in the entire Region, as there are currently only 100 slots for birth to three services across all four counties.** Over 2000 eligible children in this age group would qualify for birth to three services in Region 13. In 2020, there were 82 slots for Early Head Start and 18 slots for Prevention Initiative.
 - b. **Recommendation 2: Locally, efforts are needed to increase quality by promoting and sharing information about the State's current workforce initiatives, educate the public about the need for more teachers, and advocate for increased public dollars that support adequate compensation.** A strong and qualified workforce is necessary to move the recommendations of Region 13 forward. The Region needs to increase their efforts at enticing people to enter the field, as well as improve current conditions to increase longevity and reduce turnover in the current workforce.
 - c. **Recommendation 3: It is recommended that the Regional Office of Education #13 Early Childhood Collaboration continue its work to become a Coordinated Intake and family navigation system. The Collaboration should work with local ECEC providers and programs, as well as a wide variety of community partners, to break down the siloed programs and services often seen in this Region.** Families in the Region have voiced that they are unaware of the programs and services that are available. Region 13 has been historically siloed and families have voiced that a system to ease enrollment processes and find programs and services is greatly needed.

Before next meeting.

- Birth to Five Illinois regional staff will contact birth to three service providers and college navigators to see if they want to be included in our November meetings.
- Review our three recommendations and start thinking about the SMART Goals. We will be writing them at the next meeting.
- The next set of Workgroup meetings:
 - October 24, 2023, 7:00pm.
 - October 26, 2023, 1:00pm.