



## Action & Family Council Workgroup Planning.

Date: October 26, 2023.

### Attendees.

Council members present: Abigail Beam, Tori Beaty, Tranae Brockhouse, Kathy Brown, Toni Carter, Emma Conway, Amber Elledge, Shirley Gordon, Jessica Palazzolo, Katie Schmollinger, Jill Wardlow.

### Agenda.

1. Introductions.
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. What are the SMART goals that must be achieved to implement 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.**
    - i. Communication with Early Head Start/Prevention Initiative Programs: We discussed the importance of establishing effective communication with Early Head Start/Prevention Initiative programs to understand their specific needs and eligibility criteria. All programs need to be contacted to gather information about what their individual programs entail. This will include a summary of each program's specific features and identify the program's unique characteristics. The goal is to achieve a comprehensive understanding of all programs by obtaining specifics from each of them.
    - ii. Creating a marketing program for Early Head Start/Prevention Initiative: We emphasized the importance of selecting a target audience to start a marketing program. Educational literature must be developed and disseminated effectively to build awareness. A comprehensive list of physical marketing places needs to be created. (Examples: radio, television, news, and billboards). Meetings should be scheduled with professionals to share about the programs so that they can pass information on to families. (Examples: pediatricians, health departments, doctors office personnel, school staff, and Kaskaskia Special Education Program).
    - iii. Identify any barriers to accessing programs.



- 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.**
  - i. Identify individuals who go out and provide information to young people. (Examples: higher education navigators, community colleges, guidance counselors, and recruiters).
  - ii. Schedule meetings with these individuals to discuss what their barriers are and share with them information about workforce initiatives, upcoming programs that could benefit their work, and perspectives of families and providers in the area.
  - iii. Create a good relationship with the providers and individuals to share information on an ongoing basis.
- c. **Recommendation 3: It is recommended that the Regional Office of Education #13 Early Childhood Collaboration continues its work to become a Coordinated Intake and family navigation system. The Collaboration should work with local Early Childhood Education and Care 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.**
  - i. Collaborate with Jill Wardlow and the Regional Office of Education to establish a set of objectives for their collaborative efforts. This involves defining the referral process, designing an intake system for families, and optimizing the entire process. The goal is met when a referral is seamlessly entered into the system and promptly shared with the relevant collaborative partner.
  - ii. Engage individuals and providers, urging them to join and participate in the IRIS system. This would involve promoting awareness about the system and educating collaborative members on how to effectively navigate it.
  - iii. Market and share information about the collaboration with the public to engage them in the work and inform them of the mission and vision.

### **Before next meeting.**

- The Birth to Five Illinois team will fill in the SMART goal spreadsheet.
- If there are any other ideas we would like to add please contact Heather & Brittany.
- The next set of Workgroup meetings:
  - November 9, 2023, 1:00pm.
  - November 14, 2023, 7:00pm.