



Region 19 Workgroup #1 Meeting

Date & Time: October 26, 2023, 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Recommendation: Increased access to publicly funded programs, recognizing inconvenient schedules the lack of transportation, and disqualifying criteria that separates families.

Notes

Start Time 9:00 am: Welcome (5 minutes).

Notes:

- Reviewed process for determining workgroup recommendation selection and meeting schedule.

Start Time 9:05 am: Goal Setting (60 minutes).

Notes:

- Participants were asked to consider the following:
 - What are our goals for achieving the recommendation?
 - Of these which are long term, and which are short term?
 - What can we do immediately to kick off the process of sustainable, systemic change?
- Based on the group's discussion it was determined that transportation was a major barrier for families.
- The group also noted that another major challenge was community awareness of what public programs are available and each family's options.

Start Time 10:05 pm: Action Steps (50 minutes).

Notes:

- Participants were asked to consider what is already being done to address the recommendation and what are some ideas that can be implemented to address the recommendation for each of the following sub recommendations:
 - Expand Home Visiting services to ages three to five years old.
 - Some local townships have established mental health boards that provide temporary funding to local early childhood collaborations to provide home visiting to preschool aged children. However, the number of children served is limited and funding is on a year-to-year basis.
 - May need to first address public awareness and mistrust of home visiting program.
 - The concept of extending home visiting is more about addressing the transition of services and benefits of consistency.



- Adapt qualifying criteria for publicly funded programs to allow all siblings under one household to participate in services if one child qualifies based on individual circumstances.
 - Some school districts have the capacity to adapt enrollment, but it is dependent upon funding and available resources. It is inconsistent across school districts even within the same Regions.
- Create and expand transportation to and from publicly funded programs.
 - The group discussed the possibility of creating a shuttle or ride-share system staffed by volunteers or community organizations. However, we will need to explore and consider additional barriers/challenges that come with utilizing volunteers.
 - It may be more realistic to plan for one-off transportation issues such as getting to appointments or orientations rather than day-to-day transportation to programs.
- Expand half-day programing to accommodate the needs of working families.
 - Will require advocacy efforts within the school districts and at the state level.
 - For many, the part time schedule is not worth the benefits of program participation (i.e., the time it takes to get the family ready and out of the house only to turn around again and pick up).
- The group also discussed additional considerations on what is needed to move forward with formulating action steps:
 - The group again considered family/caregiver awareness and education.

Start Time 10:55 am: Next Steps (5 minutes).

Notes:

- The Jamboard and notes will be shared with the full workgroup.
- Communication will be sent prior to the next meeting to narrow down goals and action steps.

Next meeting:

Workgroup #1: TBD.

Full Action Council: Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Full Family Council: Thursday, November 2, 2023, 6:00 to 8:00 pm.