

Action Council New Member Meeting

Date: October 17, 2023

Attendees

Council members present: Danielle Taylor, Laura Douglas, Leatha Asbury, Karina Slaughter, Camesha Wilks, Nalissia Lightning, Rochelle Golliday, Adelicia Brienzo, Felicia McBride, Janis Jones

Council members absent: Janice Martin, Kelly Burke, Briana Wright, Gretchen Bailey, Beverly Hill, Diamond Ross, Maryann Scarborough

Agenda

1. Welcomes/Introductions

Notes:

- a. Ashonti Jackson, our Regional Council Manager, welcomes our Action Council members to our 3rd Birth to Five Illinois: Region 1-B-C Action Council meeting.

2. Icebreaker

Notes:

- a. What is your position in your community?
 - i. Action Council members had the opportunity to share their position in their community, not what they do at their job but outside of work.

3. Group Agreements

Notes:

- a. Action Council members reviewed Group Agreements and decided not to make any changes at this time.

4. Removing Our Hats

Notes:

- a. Becoming more Solution-based, it's okay to let our hair down and bring solutions to the issues at hand when it comes to the work we are doing.

5. Action Plan

Notes:

- a. First, both Councils will choose their top recommendations, and a final list will be made after both Councils meet.
- b. Second, workgroups will be formed for each recommendation.
- c. Third, workgroups will meet through January 2024 to develop an Action Plan for each recommendation.
- d. Fourth, Action Plans will be finalized and submitted to the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) for review.
- e. Finally, the Action Plans will be published and distributed throughout the community and Region.

6. SMART Goals Review

7. Recommendation 1: Encourage programs to hire specialized staff and provide professional and educational development at little or no cost to staff.

Notes:

- a. Questions to consider:
 - i. Why was this recommendation selected to develop into an Action Plan?
 - ii. What qualitative data supports this recommendation?
 1. StarNet
 2. Surveys
 3. Focus Groups
 4. Interviews
 5. School Districts-Five essential surveys
 - iii. What quantitative data supports this recommendation?
 1. Expulsion/suspension data
 2. IEP numbers
 3. Early Head Start/Head Start numbers.
 4. EI number of children receiving social work services
 5. PFA number of children receiving social work services or with behavior intervention plans
 6. Hospitals/doctors
 7. Program data vs individual student/family data
 8. Statistics
 9. Demographics
 10. Ages and stages questionnaire (ASQ-SE:2)
 - iv. How do we define “specialized staff”?
 1. All staff should be trained.
 2. Family support specialists/coordinators
 3. Mental health coordinators
 4. Constructional coaching
 5. Staff that can bridge the connection between home and school.
 6. Instructional coaches with SEL expertise (LCSW, BCBA)
 7. Teachers with SPED endorsement
 8. Infant/Child mental health consultant
 - v. What Early Childhood Education and Care programs would benefit from hiring specialized staff?
 - vi. What “specialized” areas should staff be trained in?
 1. **Socialization - how to support social-emotional learning.**
 - a. **Understanding social-emotional development**
 - b. **Implicit instruction on social skills**
 - c. **Supporting challenging behavior**
 - i. **Pyramid Model**
 - ii. **De-escalation / Crisis Prevention**
 - iii. **Applied Behavior Analysis**
 - vii. What training is already being offered to Early Childhood Professionals?

- viii. Who offers these trainings?
 - ix. How to build in time for professional learning opportunities?
 1. **Embedded learning**
 2. **Ongoing coaching support**
 3. **Universal training for ALL staff**
 4. **Cross Training**
 - x. How will this recommendation ultimately impact the ECEC world, our Region, and our caregivers?
 1. Benefit:
 - a. **Decreases the number of suspensions/expulsion.**
 - b. **Supports growth of students with disabilities.**
 - c. **Supports staff morale.**
 - xi. What is the first step?
 - xii. When do we want to see this happen?
8. Recommendation 2: Implementation of child care cost caps/limits or relaxed income restrictions that will allow all children, regardless of family income, the ability to attend a high-quality program.
- a. Questions to consider:
 - i. How does the cost of child care impact families?
 - ii. How does the cost of child care impact providers?
 - iii. How does the cost of child care impact children?
 - iv. Does the cost of child care create equities in child care and ECEC programs?
 - v. Does cost affect staffing?
 - vi. What is affordable child care?
 - vii. What should income guidelines look like? What is realistic?
 1. CCAP
 2. PFA
 3. HeadStart
 - viii. What is a “high-quality” program? Who determines “high quality”?
 1. NAEYC?
 2. Excelerate?

Before the next meeting...

- Work Groups
 - AM November 3, 2023, 10:00-12:00 pm
 - PM November 6, 2023, 5:30-7:30 pm
- Council Meetings
 - Action Council November 21, 2023, 1:00-3:00 pm
 - Family Council November 8, 2023, 5:30-7:30 pm
- Upcoming Events:
 - Richton Park Trail of Treats
 - October 28, 2023, 12:00-2:00 pm

- Lansing Trick or Treat at the Pointe
 - October 28, 2023, 2:00-4:00 pm
- National Youths Advocate Program's Mobile Crisis Response Team
 - November 4, 2023