



MEETING NOTES

Region 30 Action Council Virtual Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, August 3, 2023, 6p–7:45p

Council Members present: Patty Davis, Colleen McLaughlin, Denise Henry, Tangela Oliver, Tracie Griffith, Van Ikner, Sheridan Johnson, Sheryl Houston, M Stalls, Lindsay Baskin, Sandy Snowden, and Cindy Rice

Council Members Absent: Keeshia Carr, Lashauna Cornelius, NaTasha Hubbard, and Kathy Swafford

6:00pm Welcome/Overview/Introductions (15mins)

Presenter: Zena Madison

Notes: Zena welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. Shared the release of all Early Childhood Needs Assessments and we are excited to share it with everyone in this meeting and in our Region through attending different events. Asked Members about their meeting preference whether it's in-person or to continue virtually.

6:15pm Team Building Activity: TED Talk Video: How Every Child Can Thrive by Five (15mins)

Presenter: Zena Madison

Notes: Zena shared her screen to share a video with members: How Every Child Can Thrive by Five and asks a team building question: "How can each child thrive as each home is different and each family's situation is different? How can early child care support that significant growth in children? How does child care play that significant role in the child's growth?"

Feedback/discussion:

- The need for more child care providers
- The impact of engagement
- So many children are with child care providers for the majority of their day
- “We need really great child care providers for our children”
- “Importance speaks to the level of quality”
- Child care in the 1st five years of life is crucial. Plus so many young children are with child care providers for the majority of their day



-Quality of the teaching staff can make a huge difference of talking, playing, and connecting with young children rather than not actively engaging with children. It is so much more than babysitting. Learning is taking place!

-It also speaks to the importance of PARENT education. Supporting parents and providing opportunities for them to learn about these things can make a huge difference, especially considering how many children are not in a formal child care setting

6:30pm Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment Release Presentation (45mins)

Presenter: Zena Madison

Notes: Zena began by sharing the computer screen to show Members our Regional RNA. Zena shared that every Member can access the RNA online at our website include all other Regions in the State for comparison purposes. Members provided several compliments and regarding the Value and Goals sections, it was specifically mentioned: "this section gives a strong statement, is written well, and this is very neat and overall is outstanding!" Zena discussed the Regional Landscape and compliments and thanked one Member for their assistance in this section. It was also mentioned about the RNA: "I feel the RNA will help the community and families learn more about what our communities go through and how we are living here" Zena went on to discuss the Collaborations Section of the RNA and she discussed with the Council that her, Linda, and Colleen worked together on this project. Zena complimented Colleen on how well she read the recordings. Zena went on to discuss the Early Childhood Education and Care Programs. A Member shared that this section does not include pre-schools or licensed child care centers. Another Member questioned if this section is just child care focused and does not include Professional Development opportunities and also states that it appears to have a lot of information missing. Zena asked for more clarification of this section and asked to please email any other comments to add to the addendum. In addition, a member stated that the statement "SIU Head Start having classrooms open in August is not a true statement." Another Member rebottles this statement and suggests verifying this information with SIU Head Start to clarify the data. Another Member states "This is not true as there are not currently any opened classrooms at this time." Some Members also pointed out that under the Regional Strengths and Needs Sections, there is no such entity as the "Policy Council for Southern Illinois University." A Member stated that is a very offensive statement from Members and that this information should be thoroughly clarified before calling the statement "a lie." Another Member shared that parents have limitations when using



transit services and that several parents cannot ride the bus because they must pay or for other reasons.

Feedback:

- Written clearly
 - Reference what we have stated
 - Value/Goals section has strong statements
 - ISBE offers Early Choices, Star Net Gateway CCR&R
 - SIU Head Start it was a conversation to add a certain # of slots in the 0-3 age range but it's not feasible at this time/will investigate it in the future
 - Member will follow up with SIU re: mentioned "policy council."
 - Needs section...statement about using existing public transportation to assist with current needs—more user friendly
 - Transit...parent must ride with child
 - Need for transportation to ISBE funded Pre-K & ECSE programs
 - List of terms/acronyms?
 - When talking about Cairo, do you think you should add the historical homes, and bring in the fact that President Grant stayed in the Magnolia Manor and that the manor has been listed on the National Registry of Historical Places in 1969
 - School data for Early Childhood would include ECSE folks, Pre-K teachers and assistants, administrators, family educators, Pre-K coaches, Birth to 3 staff, etc.
- Event dates to remember if we'd like to participate:

- Twilight Parade in DuQuoin on 8/25/23
- Union County Fair 8/18/23 to 8/26/23
- Mounds Head Start Orientation on 8/21/23 from 1pm to 4pm

7:15pm Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting: September 7, 2023

Time: 5:30pm—7:30pm