



## Action Council All Member Meeting

Action Council Members

Date: Thursday, September 7, 2023

Time: 5:30p to 7:30p

### Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Welcome to the Council!  
Zena welcomed everyone to tonight's Action Council Meeting.
3. Icebreaker  
Linda asked everyone to share 3 things they can't live without. Everyone shared...some things mentioned were family, children, God, pets, etc.
4. Group agreements  
Zena shared her screen to review the Group Agreements used in the first year and asked everyone to provide feedback if any updates were needed.
5. Action Council meetings
  - a. Meeting cadence-will be decided by councils.
  - b. Participation is highly encouraged to complete Action plans.
  - c. Absences-please let us know in advance, if possible, we will follow up with you for updates.
6. Orientation Guide  
Zena shared her screen and briefly reviewed the Orientation Guide with everyone and mentioned that it will be saved in our Region's Google Drive with the other files.
7. Year 1 overview  
Zena shared that in the first year, we worked on sharing Birth to Five Illinois in the community by going to schools, conversations with city officials, focus groups, interviews, meetings, events, etc. The work of the first year was to produce and gather the information for the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment. Zena asked everyone if they have had a chance to review it and submit our survey as we are gathering feedback that will be added as an Addendum to the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment for anything we may have missed, updates, corrections, etc. Links to the report and survey were provided in the meeting chat.



8. Year 2 work
  - a. Addendum
  - b. CQI
  - c. Action Plan recommendations

Zena mentioned year 2 will be working on our Region's recommendations in work groups. Each of you will pick which workgroup based on the recommendation of your choice. We have a timeline to work on this from October 2023 to Jan 2024. We have a template, smart goals, and a guide for this workgroup setup. Also, we will be applying CQI into this workspace. Zena asked if anyone was familiar with this concept, and a few Council Members mentioned they were, and one member briefly explained the process involving plan/do/study/act. Another Council Member explained that she is familiar with the CQI process used in her child care program to show the quality of care as a system. Mental health will also be part of the focus for this second year. We will have to decide the days/times that will be best for everyone to meet. Everyone voted in the chat with their availability and there was a mix of evenings, a few are available during the day, a few are available in the afternoons, and a few others have a flexible schedule. A tentative work meeting is scheduled for 9/21/23.

Zena then mentioned that we needed everyone to pick and decide on 2 or 3 recommendations from our Region's Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment. Zena shared her screen and showed the list of the 5 recommendations made by our Action & Family Councils in the first year and gave everyone time to review them. Everyone expressed their vote and different recommendations were discussed by everyone in the Action Council. Prioritized recommendations selected by the Action Council were #2 and #4.

Our plan is to continue to elevate everyone's voice. Sometimes we can agree to disagree, but our overall goal is to do what is best for the families in our Region.

Zena thanked everyone for their attendance.

### **Before the next meeting...**

- Review the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment & submit survey.