



Workgroup 1 Notes

Date: October 9, 2023

Attendees

Council members present: Bobbie Hinden, Joan Battley, Taishiya Nix, Dane Cruz, Maria Pizano, and Pankti Jani

Agenda

- I. Review Group agreements
- II. Review of SMART goals
 - a. [Short video on SMART goals](#)
 - b. SMART goals handout example presented, and ideas discussed.

III. Action and Implementation Plan:

Notes: An overview was provided to discuss how the Action Plan will be used during Year 2. Council members were given a list of recommendations made for the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment. As a council, we will decide what 2-3 recommendations to work on.

IV. Recommendation: Increase Child Care slots across all program options: Publicly funded, child care centers, and home-based programs

Notes: A recommendation was made based on feedback from families and providers during the Regional Needs Assessment process.

Why was the recommendation made?

- According to the RNA Regional Needs Assessment, the publicly funded slot gap was 69% in Lake County.
- According to the RNA Regional Needs Assessment, Child Care slot gap was 66% in Lake County.
- Increase the availability of Child Care for families in Lake County.
- The majority of the “slot gap” is in underserved areas.

What data supports the recommendation?

- Based on Focus Groups, Interviews, and Surveys it is difficult for families to find affordable Child Care.
- There are a total of 50,660 children under the age of 6 with 21,261 total slots identified in Lake County.



What are the goals that must be achieved to implement this recommendation?

- Reduce slot gap by 10% by opening one to two Child Care facilities every six months in Lack County.
- Communities that were identified as Child Care desert are awarded the upcoming RFP (Request For Proposal) grant.
- We are hoping to meet the goals within six to eight months.

What are the SMART goals that must be achieved to implement this recommendation?

- The workgroups met to discuss this question and fill out the SMART goals, a list of steps needed to achieve each goal, and a timeline for accomplishing the goals.
- By organize and host a minimum of three information sessions in Lake County, each session attended by the maximum number of participants to educate and empower individuals on the steps are requirements to open their own Child Care facility, with a focus on quality and compliance. Birth to Five Illinois and YWCA Metropolitan Chicago are working together to achieve this goal.
- We will work with Dr. Karner and ROE (Regional Office of Education) to ensure, support, and track all communities identified as Child Care deserts by ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) applying for the upcoming RFP grant.
- We are hoping to meet the goals within six to eight months.

What are the anticipated risks/barriers to achieving the goals?

- Transportation.
- Funding.
- Lack of information and awareness in families who are living in isolated areas of Lack County.
- Families prefer providers close to their residents.
- Having required workforce support is a challenge due to wages, world load, and not much interest in the ECE (Early Childhood Education) field.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 13 at 01:00 pm