



## Action Plan Workgroups Summary.

October 17 & 19.

### Attendees.

**Workgroup 1 present:** Megan Meyrick, Courtney Kirk, Rev. Butterick.

**Workgroup 2 present:** James Keith, Amy Steck, Jacqui Smith, Jacquelynn Rose.

**Workgroup 3 present:** Karen House, Brenda Eastham, Sara Smith, Alyssa Mize.

### Agenda.

1. Group agreements.
2. Review of SMART goals.
  - a. SMART goals are important to our work because they break down the steps to implementing recommendations into small, manageable pieces.
  - b. This allows for more community buy-in and gives us all the ability to adjust our goals and the steps to reaching those goals if something doesn't work or is accomplished ahead of schedule.
  - c. SMART goals for recommendations are rooted in the data and findings from the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment.
3. Recommendations.
  - a. **Workgroup 1 Recommendation: The urgent need for a Crisis Nursery in Decatur.** Recommendation was made due to Decatur having a high child maltreatment rate. There are no shelters in our community that will allow men with children. Shelters that allow women with children have limited space. Decatur also has a lack of foster homes for children who are removed from their biological families. Families need support in accessing resources in the community.
  - b. **Workgroup 2 Recommendation: Increasing Awareness of Resources and Child Development.** Recommendation was made to develop effective methods to communicate with all families and build awareness of community programs and ECEC services, as well as expand existing programs to meet families' needs.
  - c. **Workgroup 3 Recommendation: Increasing Professional Development Opportunities for ECE Staff.** Recommendation was made to strengthen the ECEC workforce by offering easily accessible, affordable, and high-quality training, credentialing and professional development opportunities.



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

The workgroups met to discuss this question and began to fill out a matrix that includes a list of SMART goals, a list of steps needed to achieve each goal, and a timeframe for accomplishing the goals. Below is a summary of some of the most important goals discussed during the workgroup meetings.

- a. **Workgroup 1 Recommendation: The urgent need for a Crisis Nursery in Decatur.** Visit other crisis nurseries in surrounding communities. Potential funding sources (local, state, federal grants and fundraising). Find licensing standards and licensable locations. Agency or church to hold grant/funding.
  - b. **Workgroup 2 Recommendation: Increasing Awareness of Resources and Child Development.** Work with child care centers, schools, churches, and clubs to share flyers and cards with 211 info. Work with Decatur Public Transit to share child development information on bus stops and buses. Work with EI to get a vetted list of online develop resources for families to be shared through social media, teachers, directors, and pediatricians.
  - c. **Workgroup 3 Recommendation: Increasing Professional Development Opportunities for ECE Staff.** Increased training on basics on health and safety. Central location or system for sharing information/flyers for resources or events. Central location or system for sharing training and financial assistance opportunities. Community-supported child developmental screenings.
5. Community member, agency/organization, caregiver share-out.
    - a. **Workgroup 1:** Invited Rev. Jason Butterick from Prairie Avenue Christian Church. The biggest takeaways from the discussion:
      - i. He advised that they would be willing to house the Crisis Nursery at their church if the facility met standards or could be updated.

### Before next meeting.

- **Workgroup 1:** We will be contacting other crisis nurseries to set up visits and will also tour the space at Prairie Avenue Christian Church.
- **Workgroup 2:** We will contact EI to see if they have a vetted list that we can add to.
- **Workgroup 3:** We will contact Workforce Investment Solutions to talk about at next meeting regarding their resources.