



Region 47 Action Council & STARS Meeting

Date & Time: September 12, 2023, 9:00am

Attendees

Council members present: Rachel Despain, Maggie Fern, Anji Garza, Lois Meisenheimer, Kris Noble, Krista Peterson, Beth Smaka, Teresa Strum

STARS members present: Grace Heimerdinger-Baake, Nicole Bleuer, Chris Byers, Shari Eddinger, Mimi Hicks, Angela Hodges, Aimee Howard, Jennifer Kutz, Sarah McFarlane, Chelese Palmer, Kelli Parsons, Lynne Riley

Agenda

1. Welcome, Updates & Celebrations

Notes: Abby welcomed Action Council and STARS members. The meeting began with a brief explanation explaining the goals of collaborating with STARS more this year and less duplication of efforts in our Region.

2. Welcoming New Council Members

Notes: Abby shares with the group there are seven new Action Council members joining the group this year and new parents and caregivers joining the Family Council. The group agreements were reviewed and discussed as guidelines for how the council will work together and the group was welcomed to add to our edit the agreements if they felt appropriate.

3. Birth to Five Illinois Year Two

Notes: Abby gave a detailed overview of the following:

- a. Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment Addendum
- b. Implementation Plan and Choosing Recommendations
- c. Work Groups with the Family Council

Attendees were encouraged to openly discuss their thoughts and opinions regarding the recommendations. This discussion is the first step in finalizing recommendations for an implementation plan; after a final discussion with the Action and Family Council, two to three recommendations will be selected to work on first. The group discussed Affordability Recommendations, the Early Childhood and Education Care (ECEC)



Awareness Recommendations, and Workforce and Sustainability Recommendations would be a possible starting point moving forward.

4. Reports and Committee Updates

Notes: Lois and STARS committee members reported on the progress of committees, Early Childhood updates, and events happening in the Region. STARS Committees reports included:

- a. Early Childhood Workforce Committee
- b. Family Education & Engagement Committee
- c. IRIS/Coordinated Intake Committee
- d. Home Visiting Committee
- e. Child Care Task Force

Next Action Council Meeting:

Date: September 26th, 2023

Time: 9:00am

Next Action Council & STARS Meeting:

Date: October 10th, 2023

Time: 9:00am