



## [Region 47 Action Plan Work Groups Summary](#)

October 19, 2023 & October 24, 2023

### Attendees

Workgroup 1 present: Anji Garza, Lois Meisenheimer, Lisa Lilja, Monica Wolfley, Laura Moreno, Krista Peterson, Diane Ott

Workgroup 2 present: Charis Allen, Ashley Dagg, Brittany Howard, Elizabeth Reynolds, Amanda Troye.

### Agenda

1. Recommendations
  - a. Workgroup 1
    - i. Recommendation 1: Ensure the community is aware of and supplied with resources related to child care assistance. Region 47 has a need for increased affordable quality child care options that allow for equitable access and parent choice for families who need and want care. Due to the community indicating many providers will not accept the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) as a form of payment, families who need assistance with the cost of care, face even more of a barrier in accessing care.
    - ii. Recommendation 2: Ensure the community is aware of and supplied with resources related to child care assistance. Region 47 has a need for increased affordable quality child care options that allow for equitable access and parent choice for families who need and want care. Due to the community indicating many providers will not accept the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) as a form of payment, families who need assistance with the cost of care, face even more of a barrier in accessing care.
  - b. Workgroup 2
    - i. Recommendation 3: Continue efforts of providing ECEC marketing materials to the places parents and caregivers indicated, which include medical offices, grocery stores, older siblings' schools, and online. The Region indicated a need for a modern, simplified Regional Resource Guide for caregivers that is up-to-date and can be accessed online. Families in Region 47 also indicated they desire in-person events where they can collect resources and connect with other caregivers.
2. 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 included 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 what was discussed during the workgroup meetings.

- a. Workgroup 1
    - i. Recommendation 1: Ensure the community is aware of and supplied with resources related to child care assistance. The group discussed SMART Goals versus strategies and what was the ultimate goal. The conversation included the goal of ensuring the community, including providers and employers, are aware of the CCAP and the goal of increasing the percentage of providers who will accept CCAP payments. Additionally, the group felt increasing provider knowledge and understanding of the program was an important step in achieving those things.
    - ii. Recommendation 2: Ensure the community is aware of and supplied with resources related to child care assistance. Due to Workgroup structuring, the group selected to focus on Recommendation 1 first and then work on Recommendation 2 after the Action Plan is complete.
  - b. Workgroup 2
    - i. Recommendation 3: Continue efforts of providing ECEC marketing materials to the places parents and caregivers indicated, which include medical offices, grocery stores, older siblings' schools, and online. The group discussed a resource guide that can be utilized by community agencies and parents/caregivers that has multiple formats (website, social media, emailed newsletter). Additionally, there should be designated physical locations throughout each county where families can go for resources and marketing materials.
3. Community member, agency/organization, caregiver share-out
- a. Workgroup 2 invited Grace Heimerdinger-Baake, Family Engagement & Education Specialist from the Regional Office of Education #47 (ROE) to present family engagement work currently being done at the ROE and answer questions.
    - i. Grace shared the Building Stronger Families regional newsletter with the group along with updates from their family engagement efforts.
    - ii. The ROE is working to coordinate events throughout the entire Region, with a goal of 20 minutes or less from all towns within the county to assist with transportation barriers.



- iii. Grace also shared that the ROE is incorporating a family engagement section on its website for caregivers to access resources.