



Meeting Notes

Region 51 Action & Family Council Meeting

Location: Birth to Five Illinois: Virtual

Date & Time: Wednesday, August 9, 2023, from 5:30 -7:30pm

Action Council Members Present: Apryl Edwards, Jill Larson, Laura Pickrell, Lindsay Sleade, Lajewell White, Megan Reynolds, Laurie Rhodes, Connie Shugart, Savannah Wilken, Wendy Williams, and Jamar Scott,

Action Council Members Absent: Mitch Baker, LeAnn Bell, Christine Craddock, Kendra Day, Lori Harrison, Kayla Miller, Ya'Shika Reed, Tracie Sampson, Tiffani Saunders, Debbie Tiskos, and Doris Turner

Family Council Members Present: Jamie Aldridge, Tanika Jones, Hillary Kelly, Megan Loberg-Simmering, Mindy Parks, Saunja Slater, Sara Trine, and Gail Waddell

Family Council Members Absent: Bushra Ali, Antoinette Bidlingmaier, Kesha Harris, Monique Nally, and Tabitha Williams

5:30pm: Went over the Community Agreements, did introductions, and Ice Breaker. Stated how the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment is LIVE, & Council Interest forms are still open and provided a State update.

Notes:

- Ashley went over the Community Agreements since we had both Action and Family Council at the same meeting.
- The councils engaged in introductions and an "Ice Breaker" (*This or That*) to help build more personal relationships between the two councils.
- Ashley let the Councils know the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment is now LIVE.
- Ashley said paper copies were delivered to many of the Council Members last week and if you could take a picture with the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment and send it to us to add to our pic collage we would appreciate it.
- Ashley told Council Members to please complete the feedback survey so we can gather additional information needed for the Addendum.
- Ashley let the Councils know the Interest Forms are still open and asked "Who do you know?" and to please share the form with those individuals. We also shared how the Interest Forms will be closed by August 20, 2023.



- Ashley let the Councils know great news from the State; in all the Regions across Illinois, Mental Health services for Birth to Five years old are a big need and this is where Birth to Five Illinois will be focusing.

Decisions: We will discuss meeting times for Action Council at the September Meeting to see if it works for all partners.

Next Steps: Send out reminders and links for the Interest forms to Council Members to continue to share with individuals they feel would be an asset to the Councils. We will also resend the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment and the survey feedback link to allow the Council members to provide their feedback.

6:00pm: Revisited the top three Local Recommendations to vote on which one(s) to take action on (Ask the question: Which local recommendation(s) should the Councils begin to take action on?)

Notes:

- Ashley asked the question: Which local recommendation(s) should the Councils begin to take action on?
- Council Members spoke up saying we should work on all three Local Recommendations by “dividing and conquering” and developing committees.

Decisions: Create small committees that would focus on a specific Recommendation. Council Members would be able to choose which Recommendation committee(s) they would like to be on based on their knowledge, strengths, and role/connection in the community.

Next Steps: Create a survey to send to the Council Members to let them choose which recommendation(s) they would like to focus on to help us create the focus committees.

6:30pm: Reviewed the new Birth to Five Illinois messaging and provided the Regional communications guide.

Notes:

- Ashley went over the new verbiage the State Team provided us to use moving forward to help us simplify our messages and stories.
- Amanda suggested using our personal Early Childhood experiences/stories as a great way to introduce Birth to Five Illinois, and to keep our “Elevator Pitch” and “Your Why” saved to your phone for easy access.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: Regional Team and Council Members share the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment with family and friends.



7:00pm: Updated on dissemination and announcements.

Notes:

- Ashley shared how the disseminations are still happening and how we will continue to gather feedback to add to the Addendum (date to be announced soon.)
- Ashley went over the data sources we use for Birth to Five Illinois.
- Ashley listed the links to the foundational trainings, from Illinois Action for Children, which the Council can take.
- Ashley reviewed the ways to connect with Region 51 and reminded Council Members to join our Facebook Group.
- Amanda shared about the Child Support Awareness Family Resource Day on Friday, August 11, 2023, 9:00am-3:00pm

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: Send out the feedback survey to Council Members to gather feedback.

Next Meeting Action Council: Thursday, September 14, 2023, Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Location: 1209 S. 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703

Next Meeting Family Council: Wednesday, September 13, 2023, Time: 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Location: 1209 S. 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703