



MEETING NOTES

Region 1 Action Council Meeting

Location: via ZOOM

Date & Time: Nov. 28, 2023 1:30pm - 3:00pm & 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Council Members present: Brooke Walker, Cassie Delaney, Brittany Brokaw, Katie Janssen, Shelly Sheffler, Carol Harlow, Molly Dunn-Steinke, Tina Combs, Andrea Akers, Sarah Farha.

Welcome/Introductions/Icebreaker Activity.

AI Companion Feature Introduction: Bridget introduced the AI companion feature, a tool that summarizes meeting transcripts. Brooke demonstrated its use and the team discussed its potential benefits. The team agreed to wait until everyone joined the meeting before discussing its use further. The team then moved on to reviewing and discussing recommendations, action planning, and receiving updates on regional work. Community agreements were also established, emphasizing the importance of taking care of personal needs during the call. The team shared their personal guilty pleasures, which included watching TV shows, drinking certain drinks, and playing video games. Bridget also congratulated Brittney Brokaw and the Camp Point football team for their state championship win.

Action Plan Recommendations Progress Update: Recommendations #1 and #3.

Bridget discussed the status of the team's recommendations. The first recommendation, dealing with collaborations, was deemed set for implementation. Bridget also shared that the Family Council is working on the third recommendation, which is to create a database of resources for 0 to 5 services by county. Any team members who wish to work on Recommendation #3 are invited to attend Family Council meetings (Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon meetings 2x per month) for collaboration.

Action Planning Exercise - Recommendation #2

The second recommendation, which involves educating prospective center and home-based providers on licensing requirements, is still a work in progress. The team was asked to brainstorm the content of these educational events and to consider how to make them more specific to the needs of childcare. It was determined that three events would be a good number

= one geared toward western portion of Region 1 (Quincy), one toward the eastern half (Jacksonville), and one encompassing the entire Region (virtual). It was noted that recent efforts by WCCC to conduct similar sessions were not successful at the county level and that all sessions should include a virtual option for those unable or unwilling to travel/attend in person. Molly suggested different time options to meet the broadest audience. Locations for hybrid options included: Birth to Five offices and LLCC in Jacksonville; Chaddock, JWCC, and WCCC in Quincy.

Folks who should be included: CCR&R reps from both Regional agencies, April Darringer (JWCC) and Danyle Watkins (LLCC). The team explored the potential of integrating the Family Childcare Union into the events. They also considered collaborating with high schools and community colleges to broaden their reach. It was decided that high schools would not be a good fit and that college age recruitment was a better option. Other suggestions for resources to have on hand include mental health (IECMHC representatives. Clarification on who provides this contract in Morgan and Scott Counties - Baby Fold holds this grant. Molly can help facilitate introductions. Inclusion of higher ed navigators for both community college districts was also suggested. Tina suggested an employee of WCCC that specializes in licensing as a resource for the events. The team also discussed the possibility of involving other professionals in their initiative, including current home-based providers and center directors.

The team deliberated on the inclusion of DCFS in the licensing process for higher education institutions. Members expressed interest in learning about the licensing application and process from DCFS, while others suggested that involving DCFS could improve its reputation and clarify its role. However, concerns were raised about potential negative perceptions of DCFS's presence. The team agreed that the decision to involve DCFS should consider the context and the representative's ability to effectively communicate and build trust. Bridget proposed a two-step approach to introduce DCFS at a follow-up meeting, and April suggested involving a retired DCFS representative, in a consultant role.

The team contemplated the idea of marketing events directly to their families and it was determined this could be done without any conflict of interest. They also discussed the possibility of sharing this information on social media, with team members expressing comfort in sharing it with their families.

The team also discussed the time required for these steps, with Katie suggesting a six-month period, but concerns were raised about the potential loss of momentum during the summer months. After considering these factors, the team agreed on a new deadline of July 30th.

Updates on Regional Work

Scott County - next meeting is January 16; working with Region 40 to understand some of the collaboration work they were able to do in Greene County for better understanding of the planning process in a similarly underserved county.

Cass County – Beardstown group next meeting is January 10; Region 1 Staff meeting with group leaders on December 6th.

Brown County – collaboration application submitted; potential initiative to bring literacy to spaces not specific to young children per se, but where young children spend a lot of time AND resource fair

Pike County – we are still strategizing this county; more to come.

Faith based organizations -continuing outreach for data collection and understanding of organizational structure/strengths/challenges.

Resource guide - underway for Morgan/Scott Counties – nearly complete. Will be engaging Family Council to target subcategories, search features, and organization of information.

Mental health needs assessment – preliminary work includes outreach to all county health departments and mental health providers known to us for data retrieval where possible and critical input on needs.