

overall examination of Regional assets in the field (February) and the examination of the Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant Model in Illinois (March). In April, the group will determine strengths and barriers relative to findings in surveys, interviews, and focus groups. Finally, in May, the Action Council will come together with the Family Council to plan and host a community meeting to share findings in June.

Updates on Regional Work: Bridget also provided updates on work in Scott and Cass Counties. The Cass County project to establish a child care center continues with strong support from the school district. They have identified a potential facility and director. They are working to form a Board of Directors, apply for 501c3 funding, and craft a name/mission statement. The second meeting of the Scott County group was not well attended on a nasty weather day. Of the three community members present, two felt like efforts toward a collaboration would be duplication of organizations already working in the social service field. Action Council members felt that since the meeting was not well attended, there should be outreach conducted to interested parties who were not present to be sure their sentiments align with those who were able to attend. In Pike County, there may be some interest in forming a ECEC Committee out of the existing LIC group that meets every other month.

Announcements: Part of the Start Smart legislative package passed last spring includes state funding for Dolly Parton Imagination Library projects. While this is not in our current scope of work, Birth to Five Illinois: Region 1 is happy to connect interested organizations with resources for this important literacy initiative. A Conscious Discipline Workshop will be offered in March by Jacksonville Area Friend of Family Learning - this Saturday hybrid event offers professional development credits for DCFS and ISBE. Information for registration will be provided on our FB page for further information. Bridget also informed attendees they would receive a survey email for a mid-year check-in from the Birth to Five Illinois State Team.