



Region 1 Action Council Meeting Notes.

Location: via Zoom.

Date & Time: December 12, 2023 1:30pm - 3:00pm.

3:00pm - 4:30pm.

Council Members present: Shelly Sheffler, Brooke Walker, April Darringer, Rosemary Grace, Brittney Brokaw, Cassie Delaney, Molly Dunn-Steinke, Tina Combs.

Welcome/Icebreaker: Attendees were asked about the largest animal they could beat in a physical fight. Answers were various and hysterical with members sharing pictures and personal stories.

Action Plan Review and Discussion: The discussion began with a review of the Action Plan goals and updates on the Family Council and plans for a Pike County collaboration. Bridget outlined the Action Plan timeline (January/March) for submitting to the Birth to Five State Team and DHS, which emphasized RNA recommendations of outreach to families/ raising awareness of available services in rural areas and increasing Birth to Three Services. The council goals commit to forming new collaborations or subcommittees specific to ECEC systems and creating a listing of resources by county with birth to 5 services by September 30th, 2024. The Family Council also suggested creating a frequently asked questions sheet to accompany the resource guide. The third goal calls for the planning for three hybrid events aimed at educating prospective center and family based providers on licensing requirements. The early childhood coordinator at Lincoln Land Community College is willing to join these efforts. The council will pause Action Planning to put together the final plan and send it for review, revisiting it at the end of February.

Pike County Collaboration Asset Mapping: The Council discussed the strategy for asset mapping in Pike County, emphasizing the importance of focusing on key organizations and state agencies rather than specific individuals. The team

discussed the expansion of the Pike County Interagency Council and identified potential individual members such as center directors, community college early childhood education instructors, PACT Head Start, and representatives from three PFA programs. The team also discussed the deadline for the upcoming ISBE Intent to Apply and the need for potential advocacy. Bridget discussed the upcoming retirement of a local district superintendent and the potential implementation of a childcare project in the same district. They sought insights on navigating this transition. The team also discussed the existence of a family childcare association and planned to reach out to potential contacts to confirm status. A collaboration may be able to help establish one if there isn't one operating now. Bridget outlined the plan to pause work on Pike County in February but suggested some relationship building might be possible in January, with a goal to have something accomplished by late April or early May. They also proposed the possibility of proposing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library as a potential project for the collab. The team agreed to schedule the first meeting in April with potential second and third meetings in May and June.

Updates on Regional Work: Bridget also provided updates on work in Scott and Cass Counties, The next meeting of the Cass County group scheduled for January 10th. The Birth to Five Illinois Team continues outreach to faith-based organizations. The Birth to Five Illinois Mental Health Survey has launched with the purpose of establishing baseline data from which to build out our upcoming mental health needs assessment. Time was given in the meeting for participants to complete the survey. Brief discussion about Dolly Parton Imagination Library and potential for collaboration work with more details to come in the new year.

Announcements: 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. ISBE Intent to Apply deadline is December 30. Interested parties are encouraged to file the Intent - no penalty for filing and not applying, but folks who don't file the Intent will not be allowed to apply.