



Action & Family Council Workgroup Planning

Action & Family Council Members

Dates: November 30th, 2023 10:00am-12:00pm

Attendees

Council members present: Kanella Maniatis, Diane Schoenheider, Shannon Ellison, Glenda Thomas, Bob Spatz, Vivian Palicki, Hunter Stuckemeyer, Precious Porras.

Council members absent: Jukselin Nuñez, Chelsea Guillen, Angela Hart, Kathy Slattery.

Agenda

1. Introductions.
2. Group agreements.
3. CQI Model-Steps.
 - a. Note: The Regional Council Manager (RCM) reviewed the CQI planning step with the Action Council.
4. SMART Goals.
 - a. Note: The components for SMART goal-setting were provided to guide the workgroup conversation.
5. November's Recommendation.
 - a. Note: The RCM introduced background information on the process of how the recommendation was formed.
6. Guest Speaker: Chris Tokarski, Illinois Action for Children, Vice President of Family and Provider Resources.
 - a. Note: The RCM introduced Chris and a Q&A session was held.
 - b. Note: Chris provided information on the topics below.
 - i. Market Rate Survey as it relates to the 75th percentile federal mandate.
 - ii. Overview of how policy and legislation impact the CCAP.
 - iii. Release of new application for parents/caregivers coming soon, user-friendly. Timeframe: about one to two years away for a mobile version. Using a user-centric process to develop applications.
 - iv. A new payment system for providers is underway: recommendations to allow providers to do their data entry. Currently, only home providers can do this. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released, no date for this yet.
 - v. Parent Consultants: parents/caregivers should have a wait time of 1-2 business days. The request form or email is the best approach for parents/caregivers to receive support with their child care search.



- vi. Discussion on how Early Childhood Community Collaborations (ECCC) can support the efforts of assistance for parents/caregivers.
 - vii. Side Administer Contracts- a group of centers that do the application eligibility, this could be expanded to have a much simpler and interactive process.
 - viii. What can we consider as we move into the creation of our SMART goals: the more discrete and bite-size the recommendations are, the easier they are to implement.
 - ix. Group Q&A and open dialogue.
 - 1. Challenges/barriers as support is provided to asylum seeker families. Has there been a conversation to expand the six-month eligibility given to families? IAFC has elevated this matter to a federal level to propose a one-year eligibility term discussion is still happening about this topic. Pop-up enrollment fairs have been held by IAFC to support the enrollment of children in services.
 - 2. Federal program cap of 85% median income. Discussion on the possibility of this, Chris will get back to the Council with further details on this.
7. SMART Goals.
- a. Note: The RCM led a conversation to review the SMART goals set by the workgroup held on Tuesday, 11/28/23. The Action Council members provided feedback on the three goals, expanding, and clarifying the goals further following the conversation and information from Chris.
 - b. Note: Proposal for two additional goals to be included in the Action Plan. The Action Council members discussed the proposed goals and arrived at a consensus to include the two additional goals in the Action Plan.
8. Group discussion.
- a. Note: Input was requested from the Action Council on how to proceed with the completion of the Action Plan. Proposing a third meeting or feedback via a survey.
9. Next Steps.
- a. The RCM will send further communication on how we will complete the Action Plan for November.

Before next meeting...

- ★ An Action Council member will connect Region 1-B-B team with a potential guest speaker for December's focused recommendation.