



MEETING NOTES

Region 12 Action Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 3:30pm-5:00pm

Staff present: Ann Oswalt, Donna Rardin, Sophie Kershaw-Patilla

Council Members present: Nicole Gardewine, Courtney Hatcher, Jamia Joyce, Beth Lindemann, Resa Shaner, Tina Staley, Samantha Weidner, Arianna Walker, Liesl Wingert

Council Members absent: Jennifer Bales, Hope Dennis, Mary Roy, Amy Walters

3:30 Welcome and Introductions (4 minutes)

Notes: All participants were welcomed by Ann to start the meeting.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

3:34 Family Council Update (3 minutes)

Notes: Donna provided an overview of what was discussed during the previous Family Council meeting, including the Regional Scan recommendations. She also mentioned that Birth to Five Illinois will be taking part in Be Strong Families Parent Cafés, and further training and information will be shared later this year.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Donna noted that there will be a Grandparent Focus Group on March 28 and asked for any suggestions about potential participants.

3:37 Regional Scan Update (11 minutes)

Notes: Ann shared a summary timeline of Regional Scan activities, both present and future, and the next steps for the Birth to Five Illinois teams and Councils. She also highlighted how family and Council member voices are being incorporated throughout the Scan.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



3:48 Regional Scan Sections – Strengths and Needs (40 minutes)

Notes: Ann shared how, to best define recommendations, the Family Council began discussing the strengths and needs of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Region 12 during their previous meeting. The Action Council members shared their perspectives based on their professional and personal experiences.

- Collaborations – greatest strength is regional relationships.
- ECEC Programs and Services – greatest strengths are preschool programs/services and two child care associations to support programs; greatest needs are child care providers, funding (to compensate the workforce, provide benefits, and elevate the financial security of the programs/centers), specialized services (such as mental and medical health care and referrals, Early Intervention, etc.), and communication of services being provided.
- Workforce – greatest needs are more staff, expanded funding to educate, recruit, support, and fairly compensate employees, and updated qualification/training requirements.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:28 Regional Scan Recommendations – Jamboard Brainstorming Session (25 minutes)

Notes: Council members were invited to share their Region 12 recommendations by posting notes on an interactive, online Jamboard session. In summary, prioritization of funding and provision of quality Early Childhood programs and services is key.

Decisions made: Ann asked Council members to continue considering recommendations and email further ideas to a Region 12 team member.

Next Steps: The next meeting will be a combined Action and Family Council session, where we will combine the notes of each Council into the essential recommendations for inclusion in the Regional Scan. Following the April Council meetings (4/3 at 4:00pm and 4/18 at 3:30pm), the schedule will adjust to once per month.

Next Meeting: April 3, 2023

Time: 4:00pm

Location: Virtual joint meeting with Region 12 Action and Family Councils