



Action Council Meeting.

Date: February 22, 2024.

Attendees.

Council members present: Kara Boozer, Tranae Brockhouse, Stacie Hodge, Maria Koehler, Jessica Palazzolo, BreeAnna Pelcynski, Laura Roberts.

Agenda.

1. Group agreements.
 - a. Community Agreements were reviewed as a Council. Members agreed to abide by the current Community Agreements within our meeting space and know they will be shared every meeting to open them back up for discussion.
2. Guest speaker: Kristin Gharst, The Community and Residential Services Authority (CRSA).
 - a. The Community and Residential Services Authority (CRSA) is a board created by the state legislature in 1985. CRSA is responsible for addressing barriers facing parents, professionals, and providers when trying to get necessary services for children and youth with significant emotional and behavior disabilities and their families.
 - b. Q & A.
3. Mental and behavioral health landscape.
 - a. Council members were shown the basic demographics and provider locations of our Region.
 - b. We reviewed and updated our comprehensive list of community mental health centers and non-profits supporting families and children.
 - c. Reviewed results from our Birth to Five Illinois survey that was conducted last month.
 - d. Discussions that were captured:
 - i. In Washington County, accessing necessary services for children can be challenging, often requiring trips to the Chicago area. There is a feeling of being left in the dark regarding support.
 - ii. Persons of limited means, particularly children aged zero to five, are missing out on opportunities due to limited access to providers who accept medical insurance.
 - iii. While Mental Health Consultants are available to work with child care providers, there are limitations such as the need for children to be enrolled in a child care program to access services.



Before next meeting...

1. If you know anyone who would be interested in participating in a focus group or interview, please have them reach out to Jessica.
2. Send Jessica a list of community mental health centers and non-profits supporting families and children in our Region that you know of.
3. Our guest speaker at our next meeting will be Laura Roberts from Centerstone.
4. The next meeting will be on March 7, 2024, 1:00 pm.