



Action & Family Council Workgroup Planning.

Date: December 14, 2023.

Attendees.

Council members present: Kara Boozer, Tranae Brockhouse, Kathy Brown, BreeAnna Pelcynski, Laura Roberts, Katie Schmollinger, Veronica Whisler.

Agenda.

1. Introductions.
2. 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.
3. Shared and discussed the video “And How are the Children”
4. **Recommendation 1: Expanding birth to three services in the entire Region, as there are currently only 100 slots for birth to three services across all four counties.**
 - a. What funding would it take to implement the goals, steps, and/or recommendation?
 - i. Early Head Start grants.
 - ii. Prevention Initiative grants.
 - iii. Birth to Three home visiting grants.
 - b. Are there other community groups, agencies, organizations, or individuals working on similar or related goals/recommendations?
 - i. Regional Office of Education #13.
 - ii. Spero home visiting.
 - iii. Early Head Start.
 - iv. Early Intervention.
 - c. What lessons have they learned that might be helpful?
 - i. Ensure to gather and organize information and data well in advance of the release of Request for Proposals (RFP).
 - ii. Blending different funding sources can help meet a program’s needs.
 - d. Which partnerships can be leveraged to support the workgroup’s goal/recommendation?
 - i. Information sharing.
5. **Recommendation 2: Locally, efforts are needed to increase quality by promoting and sharing information about the State’s current workforce initiatives, furthering the education of current staff, and expanding the workforce in the early stages of career development.**



- a. What funding would it take to implement the goals, steps, and/or recommendation?
 - i. Higher Education Navigator grant.
 - ii. Smart Start Workforce Compensation grant.
 - b. Are there other community groups, agencies, organizations, or individuals working on similar or related goals/recommendations?
 - i. Project Child Higher Education Navigators.
 - ii. Southern Illinois Early Childhood Collaboration.
 - iii. Southern Illinois Early Childhood Action Team (SIECAT).
 - iv. Illinois Association for Infant Mental Health (ILAIMH).
 - c. What lessons have they learned that might be helpful?
 - i. Leveraging extra funds from different sources helps organizations get more support.
 - d. Which partnerships can be leveraged to support the workgroup's goal/recommendation?
 - i. Information sharing.
- 6. Recommendation 3: It is recommended that the Regional Office of Education #13 Early Childhood Collaboration continue its work to become a Coordinated Intake and family navigation system. The Collaboration should work with local ECEC providers and programs, as well as a wide variety of community partners, to break down the siloed programs and services often seen in this Region.**
- a. What funding would it take to implement the goals, steps, and/or recommendation?
 - i. Birth to Five Illinois Planning grants.
 - ii. Illinois Action for Children (IAFC) Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS) Project.
 - b. Are there other community groups, agencies, organizations, or individuals working on similar or related goals/recommendations?
 - i. Southern Illinois Early Childhood Collaboration.
 - ii. Angel for Autism.
 - c. Which partnerships can be leveraged to support the workgroup's goal/recommendation?
 - i. Information sharing.



Before next meeting.

- If there are any other ideas we would like to add please contact Heather & Brittany.
- Start thinking about the questions for our January meeting.
 - How will you know when the recommendation is fully implemented?
 - What do you predict will happen if this recommendation is implemented?
 - Is there anything that came up during discussions that does not fit into an existing question but is important to note?
- The next set of Workgroup meetings:
 - January 11, 2023, 1:00pm.
 - January 16, 2023, 7:00pm.
- After January's meetings we will go back to our regular Action and Family Council meetings.