



Action & Family Council Workgroup Planning.

Date: November 9, 2023.

Attendees.

Council members present: Tranae Brockhouse, Toni Carter, Crystal Donoho, Stacie Hodge, Jessica Palazzolo, Laura Roberts.

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. Guest Speakers/Information from other sources.
 - a. Speaker 1: Ashley Baldrige. Higher Education Navigator. Recommendation 2.
 - b. Speaker 2: Jill Wardlow. Regional Office of Education #13 Early Childhood Collaboration. Recommendation 3.
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 are the anticipated risks/barriers to meeting goals?
 - i. Will all the slots be used and accessible?
 - ii. Will these slots pull children from the family home setting?
 - iii. Will there be enough buy-in from the community?
 - iv. Can we staff these slots during a workforce crisis?
 - v. This could cause parents to have to pick up children from multiple locations.
 - b. What are some proposed solutions to the anticipated risks/barriers to meeting goals?
 - i. Educate and advertise what birth to three services are.
 - ii. Reach out to the whole community instead of just one specific group of people.
 - iii. Partner with multiple organizations to conduct public screenings.
 - c. What individuals and/or organizations/agencies should be included in meetings to meet goals, take the steps, and/or implement recommendations?
 - i. Early Head Start, Regional Office of Education #13, Illinois Department of Human Services, Spero Family Services, Dr. Andy Hall Early Childhood



Center, school districts, child care centers, Women Infants and Children program, health departments, and pediatricians.

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 are the anticipated risks/barriers to meeting goals?
 - i. There are no scholarships for people that do not have experience in the Early Childhood Education and Care field.
 - ii. Colleges tend to have their own rules which make it difficult for people to navigate.
 - b. What are some proposed solutions to the anticipated risks/barriers to meeting goals?
 - i. Information sharing with navigators, students, and the community.
 - c. What individuals and/or organizations/agencies should be included in meetings to meet goals, take the steps, and/or implement recommendations?
 - i. Navigators, Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, colleges, high schools, Regional Office of Education #13, providers, Chamber of Commerce, family child care, Bright Point, and media.

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 December meeting.
 - What funding would it take to implement these recommendations?
 - Are there other community groups, agencies, organizations, or individuals working on similar or related goals/recommendations?
- The next set of Workgroup meetings:
 - November 28, 2023, 1:00pm and 7:00pm.
 - December 12, 2023, 7:00pm.
 - December 14, 2023, 1:00pm.
- There has been a date change for January.
 - January 11, 2023, 1:00pm.
 - January 16, 2023, 7:00pm.