



## Action & Family Council Workgroup Meeting

Action & Family Council Members

Date: December 21, 2023 1:00pm—3:00pm

### Attendees

Council members present: Kathy Slattery, Bob Spatz, Hunter Stuckemeyer, Kanella Maniatis, Chelsea Guillen, Precious Porras, Glenda Thomas, and Rosalind Banks.

Council members absent: Ana Guevara, Diane Schoenheider, Dot Lamshead, Emily Norman, Linda Rios, Monique Griffith, Sarah Weston, Tiffany Lewis-Arima, Vivian Palicki, and Desiree Johnson.

### Agenda

1. Introductions.
2. Welcome guest speaker Brittain Ayres!
  - a. Introductory presentation on the overview of Community Systems Development.
  - b. Definition of Collaboration per Partner, Plan, Act: a shared vision of goals, jointly developed structure, shared responsibility, shared resources, and it is a working definition as community needs also define it.
  - c. Brittain shared with the Council a visual of the Illinois Early Childhood Collaborative Landscape.
  - d. Partner, Plan, Act has initiated a project, mainly covering the City of Chicago, though it may be a good resource for other counties. Through this project, there are four identifiable types of Early Childhood Collaborations.
    - i. Early Childhood Collaborations for System Change.
    - ii. Early Childhood Direct Service Partnership.
    - iii. Health Collaborations.
    - iv. Kindergarten Transition Collaborations.
  - e. Q&A:
    - i. Do you know of any agencies that exist in the realm that prioritize priority populations? Brittain will check with her team regarding this and get back to us. Council member feedback—Cooperatives are focused on these populations.
    - ii. Is there an electronic resource guide? Yes, it's a discussion board, called "We Connect", and participants can share resources and events. It's a space for shared learning followed by a community of practice to come later in the spring. Brittain will share the link with us and has invited the group to join the shared learning space.



- iii. What are some lessons learned that we could keep in mind as we work on our Action Plan? Relationships with people are key to this work. Connecting with families, listening to what families need, and building relationships with other people is important.
    - iv. Referencing the four types of Collaboration, in the survey done, did the survey identify which agencies are holistic Collaborations vs. targeted Collaborations? These are not mutually exclusive, the updated map to be released next month will list the type of information on what type of Collaboration each recipient will fall into/self-identify.
    - v. Is there any scale of total budget dollars? There is not a scale as each Collaboration is so different.
  3. Group agreements.
    - a. Group reminder of our group agreements.
  4. CQI Model-Steps.
    - a. Visual reminder of the CQI Model for reference.
  5. SMART Goals.
    - a. Visual reminder of what makes up a SMART goal.
  6. December's Recommendation (Problems Recap/Root Cause Analysis).
    - a. The Regional Council Manager (RCM) highlighted the data findings as to why this recommendation was made while identifying key problems.
      - i. Lack of vision and leadership.
      - ii. Funding: the skill of blending and braiding funding is not there. Many school districts/ early childhood programs are not properly funded. And there is no State funding model.
      - iii. Collective impact vs. direct services, harder to understand.
  7. Previous Council Brainstorm share out.
    - a. The RCM reviewed the previous brainstorm of goals/ideas.
    - b. A Council member recommended including Child Care Associations as key stakeholders to gather data/feedback on community needs and inform community needs for Early Childhood Collaborations.
  8. SMART Goal Breakout rooms
    - a. The RCM reviewed the proposed goals brainstormed by workgroup #1.
    - b. The Council members provided input on goals and additional recommendations.
      - i. Open dialogue on defining "community" outside of geography in addition to adding the context of fostering local connections and collaborations. Input was added to the Action Plan working document.
      - ii. Additional edits were recommended for goal #2.
      - iii. Action Plan includes a total of four goals.
  9. Group Discussion



- a. Council member asked if there are any parent groups focused on the expansion of Collaborations. Follow-up to come.
10. Next Steps
- a. Mid-year survey for Council members, link will be shared soon.

**Before next meeting...**