

## Action Council All Member Meeting.

Action Council Members.

Date: November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### Attendees.

Council members present:

Clare Giurida, Nicole Woodcox Bolden, Tina Vanderwarker, Vikki Podlipni, Kristen Ford, Amy Cocorikis, Maureen Hallagan, Chris Tokarski, Wendy Mamola, Susan Cerza, Nancy Salvador, Lisa Merdinger, Bettye Cohns, Kate Warach, Katie Kretzmann.

Guest: Astrid Suarez.

### Agenda.

#### 1. Welcome/Check-In/Group agreements.

Ilinca welcomed, checked in with the group, and led an icebreaker about what you are grateful for.

#### 2. Presentation: Niles Township Early Childhood Alliance.

**Presenters:** Tina Vanderwarker and Astrid Suarez.

#### Highlights:

- € Formation of Early Childhood Alliance (ECA) in 2018 for cross-collaboration initiated by Niles Township school districts, libraries, and childcare programs.
- € A steering committee of 10 members participated with the Partner Plan Act Collaboration Institute through Illinois Action for Children (IAFC).

#### Key Problem Identified:

- € 64% of children on free/reduced lunch are not developmentally on track upon entering Kindergarten (KIDS assessment).

**Strategies:** (Funds from member contributions & Birth to Five Illinois early childhood collaboration grant)

- € Shared mission and data, hired family liaisons, and use collective impact approach recognizing families' "cultural wealth."
- € Community outreach is based on empowering parents and building advocacy.

#### Progress and Initiatives:

- € Development of parent support groups for self-care, resource sharing, and community building.

- € Actions include updated the Early Childhood Alliance (ECA) website, hiring of 6 family liaisons, and a calendar of events focused on community engagement.
- € Production of a program options resource brochure for families
- € Hosting of various outreach events.
- € Planning the 1<sup>st</sup> Early Childhood Alliance hosting an EC Educators symposium – Sat, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Ilinca shared that we are looking to bring speakers and leaders in the field to present at our meeting. Members are welcome to suggest guest speakers.

Q&A and comments:

- Illinois Action for Children for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) walk-in space is ready in uptown [CCAP Updates and Forms - Illinois Action for Children \(actforchildren.org\)](https://actforchildren.org).
- 6k children in the for CCAP (these are the families that are able to navigate the system).
- How many collaborations exist (Partner Plan Act has a directory), their capacity and their outreach, and the gaps.

### 3. Action Plan Presentation and Feedback.

- € Members divided into groups to discuss and provide feedback on SMART goals for each recommendation.

Updates from Region 1BD:

- o Poll on Dr. Smith's presentation – members voted on dates/times and topics they are interested in learning about.
- o Ilinca shared that the Addendum is up on our website.

## Before the next meeting...

- € For the next workgroup, please brainstorm some ideas for the following questions:
  - € Any other SMART goals we need to consider to meet our recommendation?
  - € What are the anticipated risks/barriers to meeting goals?
  - € What are some proposed solutions to the anticipated risks/barriers to meeting goals?
- € Ilinca to update the resource document with presentation materials
- € Create a collaboration map

€ Conduct a poll for scheduling Dr. Smith's presentation and the next meeting.

Next Steps:

€ Members to respond to the poll/survey for the Dr. Smith presentation.

€ Members to prepare discussions on goals, risks, and solutions for the next workgroup session.