



Action Council Meeting Notes.

Action Council Members

Date: January 22, 2024

Attendees.

Council members present: Clare Giuffrida, Nicole Woodcox Bolden, Tina Vanderwarker, Vikki Podlipni, Amy Cocorikis, Maureen Hallaga, Chris Tokarski, Wendy Mamola, Susan Cerza, Nancy Salvador, Lisa Merdinger, Bettye Cohns, Kate Warach, Katie Kretzmann, Carrie Rafalski.

Agenda.

1. Welcome/Check-In/ Icebreaker/Group agreements.
2. Council members finalized their recommendation in small groups.
 - a. Reviewed and made final edits to their recommendation.
 - b. Group discussion/ presentation to the large group.
3. Introduced Mental and Behavioral Health for Children.
4. Presented data collected from the Mental and Behavioral Health Survey across the State of Illinois (shared in the Birth to Five Illinois State Newsletter).
 - a. Completed survey: over 470 caregivers, 180 Early Childhood professionals, and 350 community partners from across the State.
 - b. Highlights from the data:
 - Fifty-three percent of caregivers traveled, on average, 30 minutes to take their child to mental and/or behavioral health services.
 - Professionals answered that, outside of mental and behavioral health services, affordable child care is the top need of families with children birth to age eight their agency or organization serves.
 - Caregivers and professionals identified the top three factors that would make it easier for families to access mental and/or behavioral health services: (1) Low cost or no-cost services; (2) More



counselors, therapists, psychologists, and/or psychiatrists; (3) If providers did not require specific insurance to get services.

Before the next meeting...

Accept the next meeting invite for the February meeting. The next meeting is February 5th, 2024.