



## **Action Council All Member Meeting**

Action Council Members: Nykisha Barefield, Nancy Beal, Devan Gagliardo, Genny Haggard, Jessica Kubiak, Ann Marie Kuta, Glenda Love, Jami Mast, Cory Mehnert, Casheema Omowabi, Michelle Polivka, Christine Sparks, Melissa Vargas, Wendy Walker.

Date: **February 7, 2024**

### **Attendees**

Council members present: Nykisha Barefield, Nancy Beal, Devan Gagliardo, Jessica Kubiak, Casheema Omowabi, Christine Sparks.

Council members absent: Genny Haggard, Ann Marie Kuta, Glenda Love, Jami Mast, Cory Mehnert, Michelle Polivka, Melissa Vargas, Wendy Walker.

### **Agenda**

1. **Introduction.** Welcome.
  - Action Council members were welcomed to the first meeting of February.
2. **Group agreements.**
  - Council members reviewed the Community Agreements to ensure they align with the group's vision as we transition to our Region's mental and behavioral health needs. The floor was opened to all Council members to add agreements to the current list that will align with Mental and Behavioral health.
3. **Overview of Year 2 Meeting Cadence.**
  - Action Council members were given an overview of the topics/focus of each meeting from February to June.
4. **Introduction to Mental and Behavioral Health.**
  - As we transition to Mental and Behavioral Health Council members were given an overview of what I/EMHC (Illinois Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant).
  - Council members were reminded of the importance of family voice in our work as it is the core of reimagining the Early Childhood Education and Care system.
5. **Guest Speaker Jessica Kubiak: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant.**
  - The presentation gave an overview of the landscape of I/EMHC of Grundy and Kendall Counties with an emphasis on the overall role of the Mental Health Consultant while understanding crucial tenets of child, family, and home connections regarding I/EMHC.
  - Council members discussed strategies on how to support educators and awareness of the I/EMHC.
6. **Data Literacy.**



- Council members were given an overview of how we use data to help aid in reporting.
- Council members were given an example of the importance of using appropriate, person-first, affirming, plain language by showing an outlined chart of what best practice should look like.

**7. Next Steps.**

- During the next meeting, we will examine the referral process for service providers, referral agencies, and others who work with caregivers and families.
- Council members will also examine what is missing and the gaps in mental and behavioral health services in our Region.

**8. Next Meeting.**

Wednesday, February 21st at 11:00 am.