



Action & Family Council Workgroup Meeting

Recommendation #1

Support regional efforts to create a comprehensive and readily available online resource directory and referral platform. Explore alternative mechanisms to better connect families with resources, such as family navigators or a mobile resource bus.

Date: November 9, 2023

Time: 6p to 7:30p

Attendees

Council members present: Lori Longueville, Patty Davis, Van Ikner, Barbara McElmurray, and Denasha Oliver

Council members absent: Lindsay Baskin, Natasha Hubbard-Felton, Kim McCombs, Amanda Sullivan, and Sarah Inboden

Agenda

1. Group agreements were read and reviewed by Linda and no comments provided.
2. Zena proceeded to welcome everyone to today's meeting and introduced Lori Longueville who is our Action Council Member and represents many roles in our community as well as the Southern Illinois Coalition for Children & Families. Zena mentioned starting the meeting with an icebreaker with Linda.
3. Linda asked everyone to share if we had the power to choose our own two seasons, which ones would those be? Everyone shared their answers. Zena introduced Lori to begin her presentation.
4. Lori shared a PowerPoint regarding "Connecting Families with Resources" in our Region. The following items were mentioned and discussed:
 - Families connect to resources in many different ways
 - Printed resource directories were showed (Carbondale Public Library, ROE30, etc.)
 - United Way's contact information
 - The Southern Coalition for Children & Families onlineplatform, SI Families Connect
 - Healthy Southern Illinois Delta Network



- Vision for the future...online search directory of all resources for the Region
 - Identify needs and conduct search
 - Find resources you need; provide reports when not available
 - Next steps
5. Zena thanked Lori for sharing this valuable information to put into place to work on our Action Plan. Based on the information provided, our Recommendation #1 was updated to:

“Support regional efforts to create a comprehensive and readily available online resource directory and referral platform”

The following was mentioned and discussed during this meeting/after the presentation:

- ✓ Knowing what is available now? Make links to people working on this? SI Families has a resource directory now, SIU Head Start, Illinois Cares for Kids, 211, etc. Putting current resources in people’s hands.
 - ✓ Promote CCAP
 - ✓ SI Families (over 20,000 people)
 - ✓ Submit as much information as possible to make it as comprehensive as possible.
 - ✓ Engage council Members
 - ✓ Be the voice of the Region
 - ✓ Encourage everyone to sign on and be intentional by including active partners, ex: school leaders, child care providers, food pantries, health departments, etc.
 - ✓ Perry County
 - ✓ Jackson County
 - ✓ (health departments)
 - ✓ Healthy Southern Seven
 - ✓ Have a work plan based on the data (they are a part of the exploratory group) keep abreast of any program changes, and new programs in my Region
 - ✓ Share a resource with the community about everything currently available in the Region.
 - ✓ Potentially do some “pop-up” events in communities to get information out. Partners with different organizations, inventory human resources, to
 - ✓ List of key partners, who need to know about these resources--libraries, available churches, chambers, restaurants, laundromats, etc.
6. Zena thanked everyone for the valuable information provided and wished them a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.



Before the next meeting...

- Share any information with us that may be useful as part of setting up goals for this recommendation.
- The next meeting will be a joint meeting with both Councils via Zoom on Tuesday, December 12th at 6p. The agenda and Zoom information will be emailed a week before the meeting.