



MEETING NOTES

Region 34 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: 01/20/23 10:00am-12:30pm

Council Members present: Dane Cruz, Maria Pizano, Pankti Jani, Anani Moy, Jamie DiCarlo, Janie Metzger, Jessica Medina, Lauren McArdle, Maria Colunga, Natalie Udstuen, Rosa Herrera, Dr. Michael Karner, Taishiya Nix, Bobbie Hinden, Jessica Medina, Joan Battley, Kerry Stokes, Melissa Ferguson, Martina Rocha, Treana Monroe, and Dylan Olthoff

Council Members absent: Arnita Hodge, Judy Armstrong, Cheryl Caesar, Jennifer Cordova, Jon Ashworth, Nicole Johnson, Lupe Rodriguez

10:00am: Welcome, Review of 3rd Action Council Meeting Minutes (15 min)

Facilitator (s): Dane Cruz

10:15am: Icebreaker/Team Building Activity (15 min)

Notes: If you could any cartoon character, who would you be? And why?

10:30am: Review Program and Services & Slot Gap information (120 min)

Notes: Presentation given by RCM Dane Cruz- on the Demographics of Lake County

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **License Child Care Centers and License-Exempt Child Care Centers**

- RCM gave an overview and the differences between License Child Care Centers, License exempt Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Centers, Prevention Initiative, Early Head Start, Head Start, Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion
- The difference between licenses and licenses exempt- do not get the same payment from state, depends on # of children served and square footage.
- Safety is the same requirement. Fire inspection is required for all programs.
- You are required to get a license if you serve 4 or more children.
- A license requires staff to have more credentials.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



Notes: **Family Child Care Home**

- There are 2 different types of home licenses: -Individual and Group License. Group license requires the owner and substitutes to have a CDA or college credit,
- Depending on the Square Footage of the center, a license might be required.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Preschool for All (PFA) And Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE)**

- PFA can be full day or half day.?
- Fox Lake- 2 half day and 2 full day programs,
- Priority is given to at risk families that score high on the risk assessment or score lower on the developmental screener.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Head Start (HS): 3–5-year-old and Early Head Start**

- HS can serve children 130% below the FPL,

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Viewed Asset Map with Location of Licensed Child Care, Licensed Family Care Center, and Licensed Exempt Family Care Centers**

- We are undeserving of our youth.
- Has the same pockets as the other slides,
- HS work with Childcare centers to partner to get 1 or 2 classes,
- A lot more daycares in the Waukegan area. total of 12,599 Licensed Child Care slots, 4,021 Family Child Care slots, and 684 Licensed Exempt Child Care slots were identified.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **IDHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)**

- Family of 2- Max Monthly Income \$3,433



- Family of 3- Max Monthly Income \$4,318
- Family of 4- Max Monthly Income \$5,203
- Family of 5- Max Monthly Income \$6,088
- Family of 6- Max Monthly Income \$6,973
- Family of 7- Max Monthly Income \$7,858
- Family of 8- Max Monthly Income \$8,743
- Family of 9- Max Monthly Income \$9,628
- Family of 10- Max Monthly Income \$10,421
- 6,250 children being served currently,
- Action Council member stated that “Childcare is not affordable w/o CCAP”.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Average cost of childcare provider in Illinois is \$16.08 per hour**

- Daycare should be free for all. So, the children can be ready for life. Not having quality child care will lead to more problems/assistance in the future,
- Lack of programs places kids at high risk for negative things.
- Parents can't afford care, so they don't work,
- Children Safety at risk- Parents select the cheaper/free option,
- Quality of family if suffering due to the high costs: Parents working a lot and come home too tired, if not working some parents do not know how to teach.
- The playing field is not level,
- The bigger problem is not having staff. Drought in staff positions,
- Parents must choose what essential items they are going to do w/o,
- Home Daycares should have more training/ requirements (15 hrs.) should be 10 hrs./month,
- IF parents split the care- they are tired, and the education might not be quality,
- There are Education assistance (scholarships) available for child care staff.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Public Funding ECEC Sites**

- 6 programs HS as of July 2022- Head Start has transitioned to YWCA Metropolitan of Chicago (daycare partner model)
- We don't have Early Head Start in Lake County



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Prevention Initiative**

- 553 proposed Capacity in 2021
- Family Focus has 165 families,
- Round Lake has 60 in 2021 and has 120 in 2022,
- Prevention Initiative the # are in Highland Park but they service the whole county.
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Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Preschool for All (PFA) and Preschool For All Expansion (PFA-E)**

- 2,880 proposed Capacity for PFA and 155 for PFA-E in 2021

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start (HS)**

- 70 Funded Enrollment for EHS and 299 for HS

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Slot Gap of Prevention Initiative, Preschool for All, Head Start and Early Head start**

- 3,802 Publicly funded slots,
- We are undeserving and we are undeserved,
- The numbers are not Surprising,
- 46,858 children do not have a Publicly funded Seat,
- Other states offer more funded slots,
- 2 School District let PFA go due to all the work required (incredibly detailed and stressful),
- PFA/PI grant process is a lot of work/stressful.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



Notes: **Slot Gap of Licensed Child Care, Licensed Family Care Center, and Licensed Exempt Family Care Centers**

- 21,106 Total ECEC Slots,
- 29,554 Children with No seat *58.33%*.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Slot Gap By Townships**

- 959= Antioch Slot Gap
- 2,207= Avon Slot Gap
- 980= Benton Slot Gap
- 472= Cuba Slot Gap
- 1,576= Ela Slot Gap
- 1,146= Fremont Slot Gap
- 1,158= Grant Slot Gap
- 2,151 = Lake Villa Slot Gap
- 1,419=Libertyville Slot Gap
- 2,087= Moraine Slot Gap
- 219= Newport Slot Gap
- 795= Shields Slot Gap
- 2,165= Vernon Slot Gap
- 2,204 Warren Slot Gap
- 1,546= Wauconda Slot Gap
- 4,707= Waukegan Slot Gap
- 1,598= West Deerfield Slot Gap
- 594= Zion Slot Gap

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **What doesn't the Data tell us**

- How many families do not qualify for CCAP by a small amount?
- Slot gaps are not equal, but the need can be significantly different.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **What Assumption should we not make from the Data**

- Should not assume that everyone wants/needs ECEC services,



- Families might not be choosing services based off Monterey, location, language and Personal preference.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Who should we talk to for more information?**

- If programs apply for additional slots, do they have space and staff,
- More equitable pay for staff/teachers,
- Grants do not cover the true cost of running a program,
- Who pays for the additional services that come with the more slots?
- Share the information,
- Are the Ratio for staff to children the same? 1/10 usually 1/5 special needs?
- How can we continue to advocate?
- Is there enough staff to cover the # of slots reported,
- Updated information,
- Having experienced teachers reduce the amount available to spend on the program (i.e. supplies),
- Misinformation between communities and the district about the need.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Was there anything today that surprised you?**

- There is slot gap everywhere,
- Additional Help in the classroom for assessing children,
- Surprised about the PI resource that was learned today.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Next Action Council Meeting on February 17, 2023 @10 am (TBD)

Next Steps: Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce, Parent/Family/Caregiver Engagement, and Regional Strengths and Needs.