



Region 39 Action Council Meeting Notes

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: April 20th from 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Council Members Present: Megan Myrick, Amy Steck, Cathy Lucas, Jeff Dase, Michelle Witherspoon, Tammy Robinson, Karen House

Council Members Absent: Brian Rhodes, Bekida Williams, Kristine Hansen, Stephanie Strick, James Keith

10:00 Welcome, Community Agreements, and Ice breaker

Notes: Ice breaker was done asking council members what is something that they have learned being on the Action Council. Three members stated they have learned of other resources and how great the need is for more ECEC resources within the community. Members stated that they agreed that there was a need to bridge the gaps.

10:15 Discussed Barriers

Notes: Council members participated in an activity that prioritized the barriers councils have named that families face in accessing ECEC.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

10:20-11:50 Break out groups

Notes: Council members were split into two groups to prioritize local and state recommendations and decide if they were clear, credible, and achievable. Additional recommendations were made regarding the following:

Local:

- Businesses/corporations offering employees transportation vouchers.
- DCFS acknowledging educational credentials for lead teacher requirements.
- Restructuring of Great Start Wage Supplement program.
- Requesting state supported mentors to assist facility directors with staff.

State:

- Decreasing the amount of time that it takes to get DCFS voucher approval and payments.
- Increasing staffing at CCRS to improve state system for providers application.
- Increasing state staffing so that wait time for background check is decreased.
- Allowing faxing or emailing of paperwork instead of paper copies being mailed.



11:50 Reconvene

Notes: Briefly discussed the priority of state and local recommendations.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Next meeting:

- Thursday, May 4th, 10am-11am – Decatur Public Library