



MEETING NOTES

Region 39 Action Council Meeting

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Date & Time: 10 am- 12 pm, January 5, 2023.

Council Members present: Jeff Dase, Karen House, Amy Steck, James Keith, Megan Meyrick, Michelle Witherspoon, Roberto Luciano, Tammy Robinson

Council Members Absent: Cathy Lucas, Maria Goad, Amy Farmer, Kristine Hansen, Brian Rhoades

10:00 AM Welcome & Introductions

Notes: Introductions were made by Birth to Five staff and all Council Members.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Start Time: 10:10 AM Community Agreements & Ice Breaker

Notes: The Council reviewed the agreed-upon Community Agreements and did an icebreaker event.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Start Time: 10:30 AM Slot Gap Discussion “Who is not being served and Why”

Notes: The slot gap for Region 39 was introduced to the Council. Locations of daycares and Pre-K facilities in Region 39 were shared. Also introduced was a first glance at the number of employers that hold 2nd & 3rd shift employees that possibly need daycare in those time slots that are not currently available. Discussion to continue. A Jamboard activity was done to further the discussion of the Slot Gap in



Region 39 (See Appendix A). Some of the comments and information shared while reviewing the slot gap analysis included:

- I'm curious to know the true number of waiting lists at facilities. You must truly know the numbers in your community to deploy the resources to help.
- Two centers represented on the Council have over 100 seat capacity for children, however, they do not have the staff to safely support the children if they were placed or the funding. The issue was raised that the 100+ open slots were because of a lack of quality, and qualified teachers and teachers were leaving because of a lack of training to handle children with social and emotional issues.
- Information was shared that an Early Childhood Behavioral Therapist in the community is tasked with helping children aged 0-5. They visit the facilities and provide mental health strategies for the teachers and/or daycare providers to implement.
- Also discussed was if a child is a patient at Crossings Health Care, they also have a patient liaison that will help providers.
- United Way reports the available child care slots on their website for centers that would like to participate. The question was raised if the community knows of that resource.
- It was noted that the area Day Care Directors no longer have group meetings since COVID began. It was suggested that Birth to Five Illinois can facilitate starting the meetings again to share information about Birth to Five Illinois and information about the new programs at Richland Community College for training ECE staff.
- AC member noted that local Head Start moved their funding for bus transportation to fund an increase in staff wages. It was noted that they provide gas cards and bus passes to families. Family participation in classrooms & events has increased. This helped reveal a lack of car seats for families. Funding was provided in the community to provide car seats to families in need.
- AC member stated "Transportation is the gatekeeper with us in DPS as it relates to PreK enrollment. (Transportation) creates the haves and have-nots and who can benefit from our PreK program. Widens the demographic gaps for PreK enrollment."
- Discussion was had around the need for 2nd/3rd child care based on the number of employers in the community that have 2nd/ 3rd shifts. Questions



were asked about the exact number of family child care providers licensed for the 2nd/3rd shift vs those that provide those slots.

Decisions made: Information to be shared with the group regarding behavioral health resources.

Next Steps: James to provide Heather with a list of Heritage Behavioral Health Resources to send to Providers. Heather will connect with local day care directors around initiating Day Care Director Meetings. Heather will connect with local family child care providers on the 2nd/ 3rd slots availability.

Start Time: 11:45 AM Reflection

Notes: The Council had time for Reflection on the meeting. Great collaboration and discussions were held between all members. Exiting comments included:

- Excited for the new year. We will make a true difference as a group. Thank you for the opportunity.
- Excited for the new year and learning how to bring students to my program that can fill teacher slots to help the children in our Region.
- A quote from the Youth Coalition Meeting with Dominic from the YMCA was shared "It feels like the Child Care Providers in our area are now in a more collaborative approach rather than a competitive approach".

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Start Time: 11:55 AM Questions & Concerns

Notes: No questions or concerns currently

Decisions made: N/A



Next Steps: Heather to send meeting invitations for the next meeting and links to this meeting's resources once available.

Appendix A

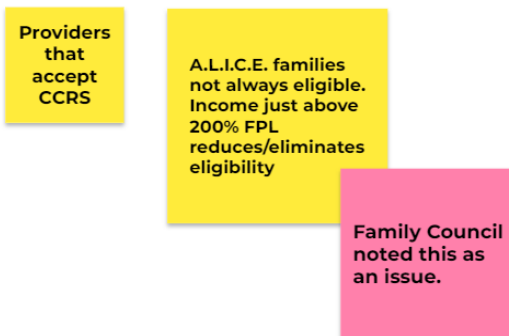
What is the gap between the total # of children & ECEC programs and the total # of children in the region? Trends?

6,322
without
slots

2,711
with
slots



What is the gap between publicly funded programs & children eligible for publicly funded programs? Trends?



What are the possible drivers of the gap in ECEC in our region?



what is missing? what more would you like to know?

