



Action Council Meeting

Date: December 11, 2023

Attendees

Council members present: Wendy Williams, Janice Moenster, Emily Alvarez, Kaelin Richardson, Audrey Gonzalez, Shameka Brown, Makisha Binns

Council members absent:

Agenda

1. Introductions/ Icebreaker
2. Presentation by Taylor Shy, Coordinated Intake Worker at the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center
 - a. Taylor Shy spoke about IRIS and Unite Us in St. Clair County.'
 - b. How do we inform families that it is out there?
 - i. They do not use it but it is from agency to agency, through the specific agency profile they will refer families to each other
 - c. Assistance for paying mortgage etc.
 - i. Now if an agency is in there they can use IRIS or Unite Us to send a referral
 - d. Scaling coordinated intake takes time due to training, providers capacity and more- J. Moenster
 - e. There is a cost for the payment with training 8,000 for the initial setup and launch (they met monthly for challenges and working through things)
 - i. 3,000 expansion
 - ii. Expansion for IRIS would require further staff, but it is another tool etc.
 - f. Some centers have one person who monitors referrals, and some all staff are trained on viewing referrals.
 - i. It depends on the program
 - g. As the governor is proposing this new state department, we may need to consider the staffing/funding etc.
 - h. For others using referrals, what resources do you use?
 - i. Refer to River Bend, Pocket Guide etc., call someone that work with to connect them
 - ii. Ensure that we aren't leaving out the smaller programs etc.
 - iii. Some resources are dedicated just to a particular community and aren't on a 211 platform because of that



- iv. Marquia Tyler, community resources and Sandra Irish, ECEC
- v. Community members know about them and connect them
- 3. Recommendation: Conduct Outreach and promotion to the community for the available ECEC resources and services.
 - a. What programs have for outreach? The two women mentioned by Brightpoint
 - i. Taylor and Kaelin are working on testimonials for home visiting
 - 1. Written, and video's
 - 2. CCAP is creating a tutorial for the CCAP application
 - a. 8 video stories about CCAP involvement
<https://www.youtube.com/@BrightpointIL/videos>
 - 3. ELP does outreach every summer
 - 4. Social Media
 - 5. Coordinate key players to create town halls about early childhood education
 - a. YMCA (East Belleville), MEPSI etc.
 - ii. seems like this could include the what (outreach task) and then the who we want to reach (groups)
 - iii. Centerstone, Menta Health Consultation (will send resources and provide resources to in-home child care, for both provider and families)
Cornerstone
 - iv. Caregiver Connections
 - v. Places to place outreach.
 - 1. Recreation centers and gyms
 - 2. Libraries (again)
 - 3. Podcasts
 - vi. Who do we need to connect with for outreach materials?
 - 1. Chestnut mental health
 - 2. Community events at Rec centers, and gyms
 - 3. Police department/fire department
 - vii. Who is using what for programs?
 - viii. We need to be clear about what type of outreach we are going to put priorities because that is something that is going to occur.
 - 1. High impact, low investment of resources
 - 2. What will make the biggest impact with the lowest amount of resources
 - a. Easier to map
 - 3. It doesn't need to be a choice between Unite Us and IRIS



- a. They are both being used heavily by state/organizations/key players
 - b. Also using Taylor and CCRR
 4. There could be several programs that could come together and do a forum together
- b. What steps need to occur to gather information?
 - i. Pilot program has ended and the CCRR is paying for IRIS out of their budget, there are no memberships fees but they are unsure how much investment DCFS will provide before they have to seek funding from other resources or having people pay a membership fee
 - ii. ESA supports (wide variety of things, function alongside East Side aligned, wellness coalition could support outreach but need to be sure we have time frames and events in advance)
- c. Gathering information: is it a survey? Having those at the form?
 - i. Kaelin: information gathering needs to occur outside the townhall, putting too much into the townhall can be confusing for participants
 - ii. Do we want to gather and share information? Or does it become a multipart townhall?
 1. Even at ELP, and Shameka have contacts with WePower to share information and to gage the capacity for their assistance
 - iii. Business forum
 - iv. Parents forum
 - v. Community agencies forums
 1. More research needs to be done first to determine what the community wants to happen.
 2. Rachel coordinated the fair last year, coordinated intake, this could be a fair that we can use
 3. Even the event that Kaelin last month, virtual wellness event
 - a. Bring information to families etc.
 - b. Having 2-3 people talk about their organizations etc.
 - c. Families are asking more questions about mental health, and reaching out more about mental health after the event
 4. Week of the Young Child
 - vi. We have awareness of community organizations but not the space, are we wanting to combine family and community voice?
 1. Consistent battle to keep up with services available



2. Families have a lot of concerns but overwhelmed about where to go so they wait until they enter the school and then they have lots of questions
3. Families will check themselves out of programs if they think that they are unable to receive any of the services
- vii. What do we specifically want to do in st. clair county
 1. Capacity and funding are our biggest challenges
 2. Workforce is an issue
 - a. Do people have time to complete another piece of collaborative work when they are trying to maintain their own organizations
 3. Parent voice
 4. Funding
 - a. YMCA East, MEPSI
 - b. Send out first recommendation
 - i. Review for changes and adaptations
 - c. Send out recommendation 2 for review once it is completed
 - d. Ensure that we are hosting within a neutral space
 - d. Why was this recommendation made?
 - e. What data supports the recommendation?
 - i. Quantitative
 - ii. Qualitative
4. What goals must be achieved to implement the recommendation?
 - a. Explore opportunities for high schools to participate in the Level 1 ECE credentialing process to promote ECEC as a career option.
5. What are the anticipated risks/barriers to meeting goals?
6. What are some proposed solutions to the anticipated risks/barriers to meeting goals?
7. Announcements
 - a. Dupo Library Outreach Event
 - b. Please share the Early Childhood Mental & Behavioral Health Needs Survey! It is posted on our Facebook, sent to your email, and we have paper copies of the flyer for individuals to scan.

Before next meeting...