



[Action Plan Workgroups Summary](#)

November 16, 2023.

Attendees

Workgroup members present: Debbie Tisckos, Laura Pickrell, Lindsay Sleade, LeAnn Bell, Elizabeth Lerch, Monique Nally, and Kesha Harris.

Agenda

1. SMART goals.
 - a. SMART goals are important to our work because they break down the steps to implementing recommendations into small, manageable pieces.
 - b. This allows for more community buy-in and gives us all the ability to adjust our goals and the steps to reaching those goals if something doesn't work or is accomplished ahead of schedule.
 - c. SMART goals for recommendations are rooted in the data and findings from the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment.
2. Recommendations.
 - a. Workgroup 2 Recommendation: Invest in more Home Visiting programs to help pregnant persons and develop resources to pass out to hospitals, doctors' offices, and ECEC programs to recruit more Home Visiting advocates. Make referrals through Sangamon HEART and launch a community campaign on the importance of engaging in home visiting programs. Region 51 is experiencing a child care shortage with a two-year waitlist which includes enrolling into Home Based Early Head Start services. The Region is also experiencing a lack of awareness of other Early Childhood Education and Care services and programs which includes the other Home Visiting programs that are not at full capacity. Due to this lack of awareness, 2,038 of our birth to age two-year-olds are not being serviced. Region 51 wants to focus on a campaign with our Early Childhood Collaboration (Sangamon HEART: IRIS) to ensure our birth to three-year-olds will receive the services they need to thrive and the Region will come together to collaborate to serve them as a whole.
3. What are the goals that must be achieved to implement the recommendation?

The workgroups met to discuss this question and began to fill out a matrix that included a list of SMART goals, a list of steps needed to achieve each goal, and a timeframe for accomplishing the goals. Below is a summary of some of the most important goals discussed during the workgroup meetings.



- a. Workgroup 2 Recommendation: Invest in more Home Visiting programs to help pregnant persons and develop resources to pass out to hospitals, doctors' offices, and ECEC programs to recruit more Home Visiting advocates. Make referrals through Sangamon Heart and launch a community campaign on the importance of engaging in home visiting programs. Two of the biggest goals that must be achieved are to connect the community's pregnant persons to the available current research-based Home Visiting programs through this campaign by using the Sangamon HEART: IRIS database. As well as enrolling more Early Childhood Education and Care programs and services, organizations, nonprofits, and healthcare providers into the Sangamon Heart: IRIS database to ensure families and children receive the referrals they need to thrive. This will ensure the success of better health and education outcomes for not only the children of Region 51 but for the families as well. When these providers, organizations, services, and programs join Sangamon HEART: IRIS, this will help streamline the referral process from one organization to another within the database.
4. Community member, agency/organization, caregiver share-out.
 - a. Workgroup 2 reflected on the Sangamon HEART: IRIS data sheet and EXCEL sheet with all the current partners enrolled in the IRIS database Gwen Walsh with Sangamon HEART provided the Workgroup. These items helped the Workgroup develop the SMART goals needed to achieve this recommendation for the Region. Gwen Walsh will present to the Action and Family Council Members at the January meetings.
 - i. Birth to Five Illinois will work with the staff and residents at SIU Medicine to finalize the Sangamon HEART: IRIS brochures to help establish how the community needs a Sangamon HEART: IRIS "Home Visiting" awareness brochure focusing on the importance of home visiting and providing a list of the home visiting providers in the Region. Then develop a brochure sharing the importance of being a part of Sangamon HEART: IRIS, focusing on "Recruitment" of healthcare providers, human resource organizations, child welfare organizations, mental and behavioral health services, Early Childhood services and programs, and all nonprofit organizations serving families and children.
 - ii. Develop a social media campaign to push these brochures to our community members to bring awareness to Sangamon HEART and the current Home Visiting programs.



- iii. With no funding needed (at this time), share Sangamon HEART: IRIS by word of mouth, social media, e-blast, a new website, and brochures in the identified targeted areas.

Before the next meeting...

- December's Speaker will be Scott Jones from United Way of Central Illinois.
- Workgroup Dates:
 - Recommendation Three — Thursday, December 7, 6:00pm – 8:00pm.
 - All Recommendations — Thursday, January 18, 6:00pm – 8:00pm.