



Action Council Meeting:

Date: Monday, February 26th, 2024.

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Location: 2455 Glenwood Ave, Joliet, IL 60435

Attendees:

Present: Debrah Clark, Elizabeth Kaufman, Paula Kennedy, Tionia Williams, Ellise Boyd-Johnson, Sandifer Thomas, and Amy Loy.

Not in attendance: Amy Martin, Hassan von Schlegell, Kathy Fudge-White, and Sherry Coe.

Guest Speakers: Mary Valerious – Social and Emotional Consultant, Child and Family Connections #15/Early Intervention

Christine Sparks – Manager of JumpStart, Home Visiting Program

Ellise Boyd-Johnson – Executive Director of Anointed Childcare Academy, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant

Agenda:

During the meeting:

- Recap of the previous months.
 - Recap of year one and transition into year two.
 - Overview of language.
 - Mental Health/Wellness Check-Ins.
 - Family Council Feedback.
- Group Agreements and Introductions.
 - Shared community agreements with Action Council and asked if there was more to add.
 - The Council introduced themselves and their family information to the guest speakers.
- Guest Speaker/Panel:
 - Three guest speakers were invited and presented at the Action Council Meeting:
 - Ellise Boyd-Johnson, Executive Director of Anointed Childcare Academy, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant.
 - Mary Valerious, Social and Emotional Consultant, Child and Family Connections #15.
 - Christine Sparks, Manager of JumpStart, Home Visiting Program.
- Child and Family Connections:
 - Region 56 shared with the council members a few questions surrounding Child and Family Connections (CFC):



- What is CFC?
 - Mary Valerius, Social and Emotional Consultant, Child and Family Connections #15 shared in the meeting:
 - Shared information on the services that are available through CFC.
 - Shared resource information.
 - Shared common concerns from parents.
 - Behavioral concerns.
 - Social worker or mental health consultant.
 - Referral challenges.
- What services exist in our Region?
 - Shared information on services that are provided in our Region.
- What have been your experiences with CFC?
 - Learned about the EI-specific supports.
- How could Home Visiting and CFC services be improved to better support the mental and/or behavioral health needs of children, families, and caregivers?
 - CFC provided information to council members as an Early Intervention family guide, as well as a How I/ECMHC works in Early Intervention.
- Home Visiting:
 - JumpStart:
 - Christine Sparks, Manager of JumpStart, Home Visiting Program. Easter Seals Joliet Region.
 - Shared information on the services provided.
 - Information on JumpStart.
 - Information on Early Intervention.
 - Referral challenges.
 - Connection to Infant Mental Health.
 - Has an Infant Mental Health Consultant for families.
 - Utilized for mental health support.
- Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant (I/ECMHC):
- Ellise Boyd-Johnson – Executive Director of Anointed Childcare Academy, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant.
 - Shared information with the Action Council on I/ECMHC.
 - There are 31 credentialed I/ECMHC providers in Will County.
- Debrief – Pop in the chat/follow-up email:
 - Region 56 asked a few questions about the presenters in chat and to be sent as follow-up questions:
 - One new thing you learned.



- Who is not being served by these programs, and why?
- What do professionals need to be successful?
- Strengths.
- Gaps.

Wrap up:

The next council meeting:
Monday, March 18th, 2024.
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm.

Monday, April 15th, 2024.
Combined Action and Family Council.
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm.

Summary of Notes

On February 26, 2024, Birth to Five Illinois: Region 56 (Will County) held the February Action Council meeting. Region 56 reviewed the region's previous months, group agreements, language, Mental/Behavioral Health Wellness Check-Ins, Family Council feedback, welcomed guest speakers, reviewed the data of Child and Family Connections, Home Visiting, I/ECMHC, and debrief questions. Region 56 wrapped up with the next meeting details, and follow-up emails for the next meeting.