



Action & Family Council Meeting:

Date: December 18th, 2023

Time: 12 pm-2 pm.

Location: CCR&R

Attendees:

Present: Jessica Palencia, Paula Kennedy, Juanita Quezada, Krista Escamillo, Laura Kimmel, LaToya Johnson, Norma Romo, Raquel Young, Victoria Theodossopoulos, Debrah Clark, Elizabeth Kaufman, Ellise Boyd-Johnson, Hassan von Schlegell, Sandifer Thomas, Sherry Coe, Maliha Afridi, and Tionia Williams.

Not in attendance: Heather Ramirez, Jessica Barclay, Takara Jalowiec, Amy Loy, and Amy Martin.

Agenda:

During the meeting:

- Community Agreements.
- Updates:
 - Approval of Will County Board \$225,000 Grant.
 - Delivered to Providers awarded the grant.
 - Reinvest, restore, and renew Will County.
 - Requesting ideas from council members:
 - Access to programs such as Teaching Strategies Gold & Ages and Stages.
 - Access/Funds for Professional Development (PD) Stipends.
 - Funds for Registration for attendance in PD.
 - The need to advocate on the data outcomes.
- ISBE Child Care Deserts:
 - Sharing the ISBE Child Care Desert Map.
 - Understanding the future vision.
- Next Year:
 - FY24-25 will be focusing on Mental Health.
 - What those agendas will look like.
 - An official document will come out from the Birth to Five Illinois State Team and be shared with the councils.
 - Will discuss what the times/dates for council meetings will be.
 - Will go over the conversations that Region 56 councils will have.
 - Will pass on the information when the Region 56 Team has it.



- Action Plans:
 - Once the State Team approves the Action Plans, it will go to ISBE.
 - ISBE needs 30-60 days to approve.
 - The councils went over the Action Plans once again as a workgroup.
 - The councils went over the steps to get to the goal as a workgroup.
 - Workgroups went over the timeline of the Action Plans.
 - Notice of the inaccuracy in child care deserts.
 - Councils had various conversations about the Region 56 Action Plans and needs.
- Recommendations:
 - Invest in the ECEC workforce.
 - Continue to invest and increase those funds.
 - Want to focus on ECACE, Great Start, Strengthen and Smart Transition Grants.
 - Conversations on students staying/incentives to work in Will County after receiving the grants and graduation.
 - Will continue to advocate for all the grants.
- Parent Cafes:
 - Anyone in the Family Council or Action Council would like to present with Region 56 team for the community.
 - January 11th, 2024, virtual meeting.
 - Will send out invitations.

Wrap up:

The next council meeting:
Monday, January 22, 2023.

Summary of Notes

On December 18, 2023, Birth to Five Illinois held the December council and workgroup meeting. Region 56 reviewed the region's updates, child care deserts, action plans, parent cafes, and what next year will be surrounding mental health. Region 56 wrapped up with the next meeting details, follow-up emails for the next meeting.