



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 09 Action Council Meeting

Location: 601 E Main St. Suite 211. Mahomet, IL 61853

Date & Time: April 24, 2023, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Council Members present: Brandi and Marguerite

Council Members absent: Lynn, Kelly, Rachel, Jonathan, Tonya, Ha Young, Donald, Brenda, Nichole, Tyler, Lily, and Kim

#### **1:00pm: Welcome & Introductions & Review of Community Agreements and Meeting 8 Review (10 Minutes)**

Notes: No one had any questions.

#### **1:10pm: Meeting Warm-Up (10 Minutes)**

Notes: The members said that from a head-start point of view lots of families are working multiple jobs or different shifts, but childcare is only offered during the day. This problem leaves families deciding between working and having adequate childcare. Families are also struggling with lack of transportation to/from these programs since head start and preschool is not a state requirement.

#### **1:20pm: Parent/Caregiver Information Share Out (30 Minutes)**

Notes: Members said that Chicago is treated differently from the rest of the state. There is a lack of attention for needs in rural areas. The classrooms are too small, they can't be decluttered. Members also said that some parents need access to ESL classes to help their children succeed in school. Members said that there is a lack of diversities in classrooms, no representation of students' culture or home life and there are a lot of conflicting policies across the school systems. Members said there is a lack of services for teen students.

#### **1:50pm: Break (5 Minutes)**

#### **1:55pm: Group Discussion (25 Minutes)**

Notes: Members are concerned that there are not a lot of men in the early childhood field. More families are struggling to find childcare. There are not enough staff in childcare centers. Members expressed that parents are struggling to maintain employment with childcare costs being a large part of their paycheck. Members have also said that COVID-19 affected school requirements for early childhood and education making it harder for people to get licensed.

**2:20pm: Review Regional Scan Drafted Section (30 Minutes)**

Notes: Members said that scan could change some word choices. Members said developmental screening might be misunderstood by parents. Using the word collaborations could imply that we are receiving kickbacks. The scan should be more specific about “work force” because not everyone has a college degree. Members would like to see “Families who are Medicaid eligible” instead of the current verbiage. Use the word ineligible instead of rejected since its repetitive or just omit that sentence.

Next Steps: Caitlyn informed the council members that she will continue to share the draft before finishing all feedback.

**2:50pm: Meeting Wrap-Up, who else do we need to hear from? (10 Minutes)**

Notes: Members said that the homeless population doesn't have a voice and also women in domestic violence shelters.