



## MEETING NOTES

### **Region 51 Action & Family Council Mtg Strengths, Needs, & Recommendations**

**Location: Birth to Five Illinois: Region 51 Building**

**Date & Time: Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023 from 6-8 pm**

Council Members present: Wendy Williams, Connie Shugart, Laurie Rhodes, Lindsey Sleade, LeAnn Bell, Jill Larson, Tabitha Williams, Mindy Parks, Sara Trine, Monique Nally, Laura Pickrell, Lori Harrison, Christine Craddock, Ya'shika Reed, Mitch Baker, Violet Wiker, Megan Loberg-Simmering.

Council Members absent: Jamar Scott, Lajewell White, Kevi Jackson, Bushra Ali, Tanika Jones, Kendra Day, Apryl Edwards, Kayla Miller, Tracie Sampson, Tiffani Saunders, Doris Turner, Savannah Wilken, Jamie Aldridge, Kesha Harris, Antoinette Bidlingmaier, Hillary Kelly, Gail Waddell, Saunja Slater, Megan Dennison, Megan Reynolds.

6:00 pm: Community Agreements, Ice breaker, Review and Follow Up, Regional Scan, Agenda for Future Meetings (30 minutes)

Data Answer Sheet Question: Name the top strength in your community.

- *Diverse community*
- *Variety of programs for children ages 0-5 in Sangamon County*
- *Engaged stakeholders*

Notes: Ashley went over the community agreements and all the council members introduced themselves and answered the icebreaker questions. Ashley invited the council to review the Regional Scan for any corrections and can stay over 15 minutes for further discussion. Lastly, Ashley went over the agenda for future meetings.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

**6:30: Regional Strengths/Needs (30 minutes)**

Data Answer Sheet Question: What barriers do parents face to accessing early childhood education and care in Sangamon and Menard Counties?

- *The child care spots in Riverton are limited so parents have to drive outside of Riverton for child care and cannot get transportation back and forth to school.*



- *The cost of child care.*
- *Teacher shortage and not quality teachers.*
- *There's no community-based program - having this would help with the transportation issue.*

Notes: Ashley introduced the data answer sheet question. Members engaged in an open discussion.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

### **7:00 pm: Regional Recommendations (25 minutes)**

Data Answer Sheet Question: What are parent preferences for your Region's early childhood and care programs and services?

- *All-day pre-k that would fit their work schedule.*

Data Answer Sheet Question: What will the Region need in the future to support Early Childhood Education & Care?

- *Money - to fund transportation and teacher support.*
- *Opportunities for education - scholarships*
- *A streamlined process to starting their own child care - in-home or center*
- *Diverse training - "Child care 101"*

Notes: Ashley introduced the data answer sheet question. Members engaged in an open discussion.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

### **7:25 pm: Local & State Needs & Recommendations, & Vote on top 3 (20 minutes)**

Notes: Ashley invited the members to look over the local and state needs and recommendations. She encouraged them to add anything they don't already see listed. Amanda added the below bullet points to the post-it sheets. The members then voted on their top 3 local recommendations and state recommendations (Results will be tallied and announced at next meeting.)

- *Education on what quality is*
- *Education videos at the doctor's office*
- *Family support when you don't qualify*

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: Analyze the recommendation votes.



**7:45 pm: Data Sources Reminder, Foundational Trainings Reminder, How to Connect** (15 minutes)

Notes: Ashley reminded the members of the data sources, the foundational trainings that are available to them, and how to connect.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

**Follow-up/Next Steps:** Send reminder emails to the councils about their next meetings on Wednesday, April 12th from 5:30-7:30pm for Family Council and Thursday, April 13th from 6-8pm for Action Council.