

Region 44 Discussion Notes

McHenry

General Comments

- People recognized that programs exist in the areas that are not impoverished, whereas the higher density of poverty areas had few programs.
- There was good dialogue and recognition of where participants hoped to make a difference.

Strengths/Assets

- Quality programs.

Needs/Challenges

- Workforce issues/staff shortages.
- Need to pay workers more.
- Transportation.
- Not enough slots for kids.
- Don't know what learning is happening for the children not enrolled in programs.
- Housing is a big issue in the county – need low income or affordable housing.
- Not all of the licensed centers accept the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).
- The ratio of slots to children looks like a weakness in our region.
- Lack of providers able to give specialized care for special needs or at-risk children.
- Need for providers in particular areas of the region.