

## **Region 21 Discussion Notes**

### **Franklin, Johnson, Massac, Williamson**

#### **General Comments**

- Our region has a 50% poverty rate, which is much higher than the rest of the State.
- There is a big difference between the number of children and the number of slots.
- Preschool For All (PFA) challenge to fill spots due to the mask mandate.
- Need for full day services, services that better match families' work schedules.
- We need affordable housing and food access.
- While doing home visits, providers have noticed a pattern of multigenerational families, unemployed and underemployed family members are providing child care.
- There is constant dialog on Facebook groups about where children can access programs/child care, but we're not seeing that translated into spots being filled.
- Public transportation is also an issue.
- Where are the rest of the kids going throughout the day if they are not in care?

#### **Strengths/Assets**

- Shared resources and partnership between collaboratives.

#### **Needs/Challenges**

- Collaborations have run out of space.
- Need for more/bigger facilities, more centralized facilities with more targeted services.
- Area is rural and there are large distances between facilities.
- Pre-K kids especially struggle with transportation.