

Region 26 Discussion Notes

Fulton, Hancock, McDonough, Schuyler

General Comments

- Surprised by the lack of programs in Fulton County.
- I am shocked by the lack of Early Head Start programs.
- There are some gaps.
- Families work outside of these counties and children are in care closer to where parents work.
- Head Start and Early Head Start are available, and families don't have to be working to use their services.
- People are not able to find care in smaller towns.
- I would like to see an overlay of major employers in relation to where programs are located.
- People need child care but there's not enough funding.
- Issues with population and access and having qualified teachers and qualified directors.
- Small towns don't have capital funds to build a center.
- Vacant buildings are not available.
- Teacher shortage.
- Transportation is a big issue. Can't even get to the grocery store.
- Stores are closing.
- Lack of jobs for parents and lack of libraries.
- We want transparency on what the State needs from stakeholders.

Strengths/Assets

- None shared.

Needs/Challenges

- Not a lot of centers offer quality care. There are a few centers/few providers, but not many. Infant toddler care is hard to find.
- Transportation issues, internet issues, lack of access to these needs. People live in very rural areas. The standard of living is below what would be expected.
- Difficult to provide trainings to providers because they live in rural communities.
- Training and internet issues in rural communities.