

## **Region 54 Discussion Notes**

### **Vermilion County**

#### **General Comments**

- There is an African American population and lower Latino population.
- Poverty level map isn't surprising.
- There is clear overpopulation in certain areas of the region.
- Children are being born to younger parents.
- Challenges include employment and unemployment, as well as an overall lack of resources.
- We need to increase coordination within the region.
- We need to ensure parent and provider voices are heard.

#### **Strengths/Assets**

- Even with the pandemic, daycare providers have been there for parents.
- Providers being present tonight is good.

#### **Needs/Challenges**

- Education, health care, food, parenting—all these resources are lacking.
- Challenge is to get the help and resources needed.
- There are limited resources within the region; it's not Chicago or Springfield.
- There is not much collaboration happening.
- Community members are not on the same page.
- We need a single place for parents to go to find help and resources.
- A lot of research is required to find resources/help that families need.
- Lack of providers in the rural areas.
- The region doesn't have what it needs.
- Minority families and children don't have what they need.
- Racial barriers exist.
- There are a lot of parents working 2nd and 3rd shift and not so many providers offering care for those hours.
- Families don't always show up consistently for 2nd and 3rd shift child care.
- There is a mismatch of hours that families need care and how many slots there are.
- Increasing child care workforce credentials is needed.