



MEETING NOTES

Region 49 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 – 12:30-2:00pm

Council Members present: Jamie Nordling, Kristen Petry, Ashley Tharp, Amanda Wentler

Council Members absent: Jazmin Cervantes, Natalie Doyle, Jessica Lovera-Matter, Abigail Pritchard, Silvia Salinas-Torres, Antoine Smith Sr., Georgia Stear

Welcome & Review of Community Agreements

Notes: Family Council members were welcomed and collectively reviewed Community Agreements.

Action Council Updates

Notes: Emily Cummings shared that the Action Council spent their last meeting discussing COVID-19 impact on ECEC services, as well as ongoing considerations while addressing the problems and ideals of ECEC services.

COVID-19 Impact on ECEC

- Moved to hybrid/remote learning
- Child care closures
- Exclusion of children due to suspicion of illness
- Children get used to being at home
- Unrealistic expectations of child/family engagement in online platform
- Social isolation; especially newborns and new parents
- Family members provided child care instead of utilizing a traditional child care setting
- Attachments to caregivers (good and bad perspectives)
- Providers experience mental health barriers/added stressors in balancing work and care of child(ren) at home
- Chronic mask wearing
- Inability to visit family and friends
- Stay-at-home parent considerations; economic sacrifice
- Mask mandate, mandate lifted, repeat
- Missing out on a sense of community



- Startling experience to access routing medical care

Review of Last Meeting's Data

Notes: Angelica Villarreal reviewed the data previously examined regarding priority populations.

Whole Group Focus (continued): Priority Populations

Notes: Family Council members resumed the review of regional data for priority populations.

- Child Welfare Involvement
 - FY19 – 352 indicated instances of abuse and/or neglect to children, birth to five years old
 - Parents/guardians need manageable interventions, required by DCFS (drug testing, parenting classes, anger management treatment, substance abuse treatment, etc.)
 - DCFS makes decision to remove children from the home based on the initial information that is provided
 - Accountability of all involved parties
 - Claims can be made by anyone; must be investigated
 - Investigation process can be long and laborious
 - False claims cause turbulence in the stability of the family
 - Services Meeting Needs
 - Service providers/caseworkers
 - CASA program (juvenile court)
 - Mandated reporting
 - Needs
 - Keep kids safe
 - Support all parents
 - Reasonable requirements according to accusations
- Criminal Justice Involvement of Parents/Guardians
 - Observations and Experiences
 - 1 in 20 children have a parent in the jail or prison system
 - Addiction is criminalized
 - Access to money drives the experience of parents in the jail or prison system – wealth inequities



- FAFSA & other assistance may be compromised by certain charges
- Child Experience
 - Need to have regular visitation with incarcerated family member
 - Out-of-home placement (foster, kinship, fictive kin) should feel safe and inclusive
 - Needs of the child often fall “between the cracks”
- Services Meeting Needs of the Incarcerated
 - Parent workshops
 - Regular contact between incarcerated person and their child(ren) (must have access to money)
 - Home counseling services
 - AA/NA programming in jail and prison
 - Opportunity to obtain higher education
 - Augustana College provides college coursework to inmates at East Moline Correctional Facility
- Needs of the Incarcerated
 - Widespread GED and higher education funding
 - Opportunity to develop job skills for successful re-entry in to community
 - Implement regular contact and visitation between incarcerated and their child(ren)
 - Safe and healthy placement for child placement during sentence time
 - Advocacy for needs of incarcerated and child(ren) impacted
 - Experienced liaison to facilitate ongoing recovery and re-entry after release

Next Meeting: Action Council & Family Council – Café Facilitated Conversation

Notes: Emily Cummings shared details of the next meeting, explaining the virtual-only meeting space and notice of importance to attend. Action Council and Family Council will come together to learn more about one another’s experience and expertise.

Next Family Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 – 12:30-2:00pm

Location: Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88486718868?pwd=TWREbUhkRDVhOGxvUkxhNHE1RCt5dz09>