



MEETING NOTES

Region 47 Family Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: January 12, 2023, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Council Members present: Candace Antczak, Angie Danielson, Jessica Higgins, Brittany Howard, Shayla Johnston, Carly Rodriguez

Council Members absent:

6:00 pm Welcome & Facilitator Introductions (5 minutes)

Notes: Introduction of the Birth to Five Illinois region 47 team:

- Stephanie King, Family & Community Engagement Specialist
- Abby Hoskins, Regional Council Manager
- Isabel Cano, Administrative Support

6:05 pm Introductions & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Notes: Family Council members shared their names, town/county, and what they look forward to in 2023.

6:15 pm Community Agreements (5 minutes)

Notes: Members revisited the community agreements discussed during the previous meeting. The purpose was to share with new members and ensure all members agreed with agreements.

Decisions made: Members agreed with set agreements and aware that updates to the community agreements can be made at any time.

6:20 pm Foundational Trainings (5 minutes)

Notes: Training videos are available for Family Council members from the Partner Plan Act website.

[[IC1]Notes: Introduction to the Foundational trainings from Plan Partner Act. Members made aware that training videos are an available option to orient themselves to early childhood education and care, community systems development, racial equity, parent engagement, and community planning and assessment[[AH2].

6:25 pm Regional Scan Overview (5 minutes)



Notes: Presentation of the Regional Scan with topics, timeline, and purpose.

- Regional demographics, what is your community made up of?
- Early childhood education and care, what programs and resources are available to the community?
- Slot Gap, how many slots, and what are the guidelines for them?
- Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce, what is the diversity of the workforce?
- Parent/Caregiver Engagement, what are parent experiences with ECEC within the region?
- Regional Strengths and Needs, what are the region's strengths, or what is it lacking?

6:30 pm Regional Demographic Breakout Group (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Members did a pair and share in a breakout room where they answered the question: how would you describe your community to someone who has never visited?
- As a large group, we discussed our responses and used Jamboard to highlight similarities and differences across different towns in the region. Highlights from the discussion included:
 - Members said they liked living in a small town because there is a sense of community and family oriented.
 - There is a sense of safety being in a smaller town. Everyone knows everyone.
 - Families/neighbors often support each other, especially with child care.
 - There is a lack of diversity, some families want their children to have experiences learning about different cultures and the world around them.
 - Often there is a lot of driving involved to get to places for their children.
- We also discussed stereotypes about the towns they live in. Members reflected on how that impacted their community and raising a family.

6:40 pm Regional Demographics Large Group Discussion (40 minutes)

Notes: Presentation of demographic data (Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map- University of Illinois) including 2020 population data broken down by counties,



demographics on children under five years old by race/ethnicity and working families with children under five living with one or two parents.

- Some questions and comments about the data were:
 - Were there any changes in data from previous years?
 - There is a large percentage of children who are white with little diversity of other ethnicities or races.
 - In schools there is a huge lack of diversity in the workforce.
 - It is important for our region to differentiate itself from a big city like Chicago because the needs of the region differ. There is a lack of services in many small towns, families often make the decision to have one parent stay home with their children because of the high cost of child care. Many families were working only to be able to afford to send their children to daycare.
 - Even if families qualify for publicly funded care, there are huge waiting lists with no slots available and families must travel long distances, often in the opposite direction of work.
 - Knowledge of family child care providers is limited, and it is difficult to get information on licensed family child care.
 - Centers have very limited availability; churches can have programs. Not all families want their child in a religious program.
 - Children who need special services often are limited in the type of programming that can support their needs.

Next Meeting:

Date: February 2nd, 2023

Time: 6:00 pm-7:30 pm