



MEETING NOTES

Region 49 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 – 12:30-2:00pm

Council Members present: Natalie Doyle, Jess Lovera-Matter, Jamie Nordling, Kristen Petry, Amanda Wentler

Council Members absent: Jazmin Cervantes, Abigail Pritchard, Silvia Salinas-Torres, Antoine Smith Sr., Georgia Stear, Ashley Tharp

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 publicly funded ECEC programs.

Continuation of Priority Populations: What is working versus what is not working?

Children with Disabilities: Working

- Gigi's Playhouse
- QC Autism Center
- Pediatrician Referrals
- BHASED
- Speech Language Pathologist
- School District staff
- Screenings
- Art & Play Therapy
- Acclimating children into high stimuli environments
- Public library services

Children with Disabilities: Not Working

- Gigi's Playhouse
- Long process to seek diagnosis & long waitlists



- Accountability heavily on parents to access limited resources & availability of programs
- Parent guilt - doing enough or too much?
- Shortage of mental health professionals & therapy options (all ages)
- Challenges of children receiving services who are not enrolled in school based ECE programs
- Insurance type determines timeline of access and coverage (different out of pocket costs)
- Long wait times for services, not addressing issues in adequate time
- Parents don't know where to seek services
- Sometimes there are contradictory professional opinions
- Disabilities/delays often aren't addressed until school entry
- Diagnosis needed for services, referrals, and insurance coverage
- District - live in versus ECEC attendance (no transportation)

Children of a Caregiver with a Disability: Working

- Debilitating intellectual and physical disabilities can result in inability to care for child
- ARC support services
- Community information and awareness

Children of a Caregiver with a Disability: Not Working

- Huge void in supporting this population
- Mental health diagnosis barriers
- Long wait times for evaluation
- Barriers in accessing medications
- Lack of community programs and resources
- The cost of services is a big barrier
- Parents have their own experiences navigating the systems in place (IEP, Foster Care)

Families that Face Cultural, Language, or Religious Barriers: Working

- Palomares Social Justice Center/Esperanza Center
- Augustana College BUHO college group volunteers
- Bethel Wesley- childcare, educational programming for all family members
- QCAIR



- Black Hawk Community College Outreach (ESL classes) with day and evening options
- Local youth volunteers, retired/current EL professionals
- World Relief-family matching opportunities
- Refugee simulation
- AOK- working on building connections with Mercado on Fifth to meet families in the spaces they are in!
- Socioeconomic Difference workshop in May 2023
- Preschool ESL classrooms at Jefferson preschool
- ROE driving school teachers to seek ESL endorsement
- Communication from local city governments/Public Service programs
- Arabic billboards
- Open Door Welcoming center
- Dual language /ESL programs in schools
- Public service programs

Families that Face Cultural, Language, or Religious Barriers: Not Working

- Nuances of application process
- Climate of fear/mistrust
- Interpretation/translation services
- Transportation is a barrier and learning how to navigate city metro system
- Unfamiliarity with schooling systems, process, procedures (arriving at school, etc.)
- Resource navigators/ liaisons
- Neighborhood Mistrust/Fear of organizations coming into
- Encourage workforce to look like our diverse population
- What services are out there for these students in our local schools?
- Bi-lingual does not mean just Spanish

Families that Face Barriers due to Immigration Status: Working

- Palomares social justice center/Esperanza Center
- LULAC
- Floreciente Neighborhood Association
- Informed consent documents, paperwork delays barriers in access



Families that Face Barriers due to Immigration Status: Not Working

- Need to encourage and train those that have been in our area longer to lead newly arrived families
- These are our “trusted parties” to build relationships/promote access of available resource
- Tap into “trusted messenger”
- Community Resource Navigator/Needed
- Not just “being at the table” but voices being heard
- Local bilinguals provide interpretation services for local school districts

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 – 12:30-2:00pm

BridgePoint 485
1 Montgomery Drive
Moline, IL 61265

Or via Zoom:

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