



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 47 Family Council Meeting

**Location:** Zoom

**Date & Time:** February 23, 2023, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Council Members present: Charis Allen, Candace Antczak, Angie Danielson, Sasha Gomes, Jessica Higgins, Brittany Howard, Maggie LaFever, Carly Rodriguez  
Council Members absent: Shayla Johnston

#### **6:00 pm Welcome, Facilitator Introductions & Community Agreements (15 minutes)**

Notes: We introduced our new member to our Family Council, Charis Allen. We reviewed our community agreements noting changes can be made at any time.

#### **6:15 pm Priority Population Scenario Activity (15 minutes)**

Notes: Members and the Birth to Five Team split into three breakout groups where they each had a scenario as a family facing different barriers. Each group had to come up with resources within the community that supports their family scenario. Some common resources that were shared were:

- Lee and Ogle Transportation System (LOTS)
- The Health Department has programs that offer supports for young mothers and can link them to welfare programs.
- Although there are some programs that offer supports for families throughout the region, some families don't know they exist. There needs to be more marketing done advertising these services in places where families have access to them such as doctor's offices, health departments, food banks, libraries, and other places where families go.

#### **6:30pm Priority Populations Data (5 minutes)**

Notes: Presentation on data related to Priority Populations that included:

- Data from the Illinois School Board of Education on Kindergarten Homelessness, Individualized Education Plan, & Limited English Proficiency in 2020
- Individualized Education Plan (IEP) data for 3-5-year-olds by county
- 2019 Data on High Poverty



### **6:35pm Priority Populations: Large Group Discussion (45 minutes)**

Notes: Members discussed their reactions to the priority population data presented, the supports that exist in the region for those populations, the pandemic's impact and the services implemented to support families. Some discussion points were:

- The IEP data differs from county to county. Members posed the question, what screenings are being done throughout the counties? If children are enrolled in programs sooner that may explain the difference in the number of IEPs reported especially if one town offers more preschool programs, therefore, identifying needs earlier.
- Data is missing on families that speak more than one language, homelessness data (often can vary depending on different programs definitions of homeless), teen parents, immigrant/refugee, and migrant families.
- There were programs that families used during the pandemic and many of these programs are going away with little notice to those families who need to make other arrangements to support their families.
  - The pandemic has brought on new challenges for families who may need to leave work frequently or find alternative options to have their child stay home for sickness-related reasons or because a classroom was shut down.
- There is a need for more programs that support teen parents, homelessness population, migrant, immigrant, refugees, and families with disabilities. There also needs to be more awareness made for these programs and who qualifies.

### **7:20pm Wrap-up/Questions (10 minutes)**

Notes: There is a need for additional data, especially from priority populations. Focus Groups can offer opportunities to ask community members about their experiences to get a better insight into the needs of the region.

**Follow-up/Next Steps:** Abby will be reaching out to members with invitations for parent/caregiver Focus Groups that they can share with their communities.

Next Meeting:

Date: March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Time: 6:00 pm-7:30 pm