



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 49 Family Council Meeting

**Date & Time: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 – 12:30-2:00pm**

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

Council Members absent: Jazmin Cervantes, Abigail Pritchard, Georgia Stear, Ashley Tharp

#### **Welcome, Review of Community Agreements & Teambuilding**

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

#### **What is a piece of advice you would give to a new parent? Why?**

- Ask for help! Find the people that can bring brightness to you.
- The sleepless nights and exhaustion is temporary.
- Take it day by day.
- Your experience is unique and your own. Feelings will come and go!
- The days are long, but the years are short. Soak it all in!
- Taking care of yourself and your little ones is more important than chores!
- Self-compassion – You might not get it right every day. Make it right and push forward!
- Write down the memorable moments and words of your kiddos to remember.

#### **Action Council Updates**

Notes: Emily Cummings shared that the Action Council appreciated the perspective of Family Council members in the combined conversation. She shared the next steps in finishing the Regional Scan and preparing a dissemination plan.

#### **Focused Review**

- People in Custody
  - Disconnected from children and family
  - Expensive to maintain communication
  - Need for rehabilitative services during time served
  - Assistance programs must stay active for the children



- **Families that face Language & Cultural Barriers**
  - Inability to obtain social services (languages are not offered)
  - Need for child care during ESL classes
  - Tours/Lessons for commuting via public transportation
  
- **Children impacted by the Child Welfare System**
  - Need support; caseworkers overburdened by cases
  - Medical case management has risen dramatically over past 3 years
  - Mental health system needed for children who have experienced trauma
  - Medically-specialized children need guaranteed care
  
- **Families that reside in Rural Rock Island County**
  - Lack of child care options; patchwork of care for coverage
  - Lack of transportation to child care outside of district
  - Median wage often prohibits participation in any assistance programs
  
- **Low Caregiver Educational Attainment**
  - Contributes largely to familial poverty
  - Inability to support children in educational programs
  
- **Children with Disabilities**
  - Exclusion from EI services leads to future academic turbulence
  - Lack of accessible services for children with disabilities
  
- **Teen Parents**
  - High school-based child care center
  - Supportive and community environment
  - Respect given to young parents
  - Resourceful in connecting with services

## **ECEC Programs**

- **Questions Raised**
  - What percentage of families think their needs are met, partially met, not met at all?
  - How happy are families with the services in their area?
  - Workforce compensation as shortfall of services



- Why child care costs families so much? Qualifications on income for assistance.
- How many people are feeling really satisfied or not at all satisfied? Do they receive quality of care? What does quality mean?
- **Themes**
  - Funding advocacy
  - Community Assessment (AOK Network) upcoming survey addresses many pertinent themes
  - Project NOW Community Survey
  - ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL – based on individual needs, making standards and criteria more flexible
  - What will help people bridge the gap? Many individuals do not understand how to access/apply for services?

## Priority Populations

- **Questions Raised**
  - Under Children Experiencing Homelessness section
    - Housing uninhabited units
    - What is the delay in turnover?
    - What is the waitlist of housing authorities?
    - How quickly do people move through the waitlist process?
    - What units are most available and does it house different sizes of families?
    - Are there enough housing spaces that we need in the community?
- **Themes**
  - Blindly navigating a “patchwork of services”
  - Bridge services together
  - Climate of fear and mistrust when working with social agencies, organizations
  - Designated community resource navigators/“trusted messenger” (specifically those that have had different negative experiences)
  - Deep need of a liaison to connect people in the community spaces using trust
  - Coalition for Immigrants & Refugees



- Elevating “trusted messengers” into roles of Community Liaisons/Navigators
- Interpretation needs

### Community Event Sharing

- Community Conversation at Western Illinois University Riverfront Campus
- Ready to Learn Conference

### Impactful Quote of the Day

“A lot of individuals do not understand how to access or apply for services.  
These resources are here for you – to help you”

### Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 – 12:30-2:00pm

BridgePoint 485  
1 Montgomery Drive  
Moline, IL 61265

Or via Zoom:

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