



MEETING NOTES

Region 1-B-C Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: March 16, 2023, 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

Council Members present: Marisa Covington, Aisha Betancourt-Esquivel, Simone Gatlin, Regina Harden, Tiara Magee, LaDonna Reynolds, Kemi Robbin

5:00 PM: Welcome & Introduction (5 mins)

Notes: N/A

No new members have joined the Family Council

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

5:05 PM: Ice Breaker (5 mins)

***If you had to karaoke one song in front of a group, what would it be?**

Notes: N/A

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

5:10 PM: Review Community Agreements (5 mins)

Notes:

- Family Council Members agreed not to change the Community Agreements.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

5:15 PM: Meetings Timeline Overview (10 mins)

Notes:

- Jaime-FACE Specialist updated Family Council on changes to the meeting dates and times and Regional Scan Timeline tasks and when they are due. The draft needs to be completed by mid-June.

Decisions Made: Family Council will be able to review Regional Scan Draft at the next meeting.

Next Steps: Review Regional Scan Draft

5:25 PM: Early Childhood Education and Care Programs (20 mins)

Notes:



- What is the region's current Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) landscape?
- Family Council Members responded with the following answers:
 - Doesn't seem to be enough head start programs, but the daycares look good.
 - There are minimal child care programs that offer services to infants/toddlers under 15 months.
 - There are about 25 daycares around Harvey, no more than 3 miles away.
 - Staffing issues and staff-to-child ratios.
 - There are a reasonable number of preschool programs in Oak Lawn
- What insights about the ECEC landscape stand out?
- Family Council Members responded with the following answers:
 - South suburbs have minimal opportunities available to families for children from birth-5 years old.
 - Programs are confusing.
 - Families get intimidated by all the programs.
 - Affluent communities have other options for care.
 - Areas like Orland Park and Homer Glen don't have many head starts (I'm guessing because of less poverty)
 - No extended hours of care, or if extended hours are available, there is no quality.
 - Services vary by age group.
 - Children need to go to different locations.
 - Families get disheartened by seeing differences in the communities and households.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

5:45 PM: Slot Gap (35 mins)

Notes:

- Jaime Garibay-FACE Specialist, explains the definition of Slot Gap and what it looks like in our Region.
- Questions? Has your child ever been on a waiting list? How was that?
- Response from one of our Council Members:
 - I've been on a waiting list for several months. Initially, I was shopping around for an ideal daycare. My first choice didn't have availability open. They had the best reputation in the area. We went with #2, and when I started having



concerns about my son's behavior at our second choice, I had to become persistent with the first choice. They assumed I wasn't interested or didn't want to call me back. It was several months into my request.

- Why do you think there is a gap in services? What data is missing?
 - No information on layered slots.
 - No information on home visiting numbers.
 - No adequate funding.
 - Staffing barriers.
 - No quality of the services.
 - Confusion about how the programs hired staff.
 - Salaries are not enough.
 - Some programs do not accept CCAP clients.
 - Too many training requirements for staff to be considered qualified.
 - Transportation issues for drop off/pick up in certain areas.
 - License requirements are a barrier.
 - CCAP is not affordable.
 - The application process is not fast enough for families and providers.
 - Questionable hiring practices.
 - It's like lower-income people are made to feel like a burden and treated poorly as if the decision makes us not want to follow up.
 - CCAP payments to providers are behind.
 - Caseworkers should be assigned to CCAP cases like the public aid office.
 - CCAP guidelines changed.
 - Applications were lost during covid.
 - Income guidelines are not realistic.
 - The cost of living is up.
 - State forms are not available to all providers.
 - Services are not shared with families.
- What are the needs of our region?
 - New system for CCAP.
 - Provide information to providers and families.
 - Additional Funding.
 - Funding to pay educators.
 - License requirements need to be fixed.
 - Need for infant care.
 - Fix the staffing situation.



Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:30 PM: Priority Population (15 mins)

Notes:

- What are Priority Populations?
 - Children of teen parents
 - Children experiencing homelessness.
 - Children in families in poverty or deep poverty
 - Children/families with the department of children and family services involvement
 - Children with disabilities
 - Children of migrant or seasonal workers
 - Children in families with low caregiver education attainment
 - Children in families
- What priority populations are missing from the list?
 - Single dads and fathers in general (Male figure)
 - Families with no support system
 - Victims of domestic violence
 - Some services do not provide adequate resources to families.
 - Families with no support system.
 - Support for families from other states.
 - Families working remotely and need transportation.
- What services are you familiar with or aware of their existence?
 - Some services do not provide adequate resources to families.
- What are some barriers these populations face?
 - Resources are not available.
 - Drop off services (crisis center) for families looking for jobs.
 - Respite program for babies.
 - Language barriers
 - Documentation barriers.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:45 PM: Local Community Collaborations (15 mins)

Notes:



- What collaborations exist in region 1-B-C?
 - Moraine Valley might have resources.
 - Action For Children
 - CCR&R
 - Easter Seals for Early Intervention
 - CCAP & Child Care Center/FCCH
 - Family Enrichment Program
- What needs to happen before a local collaboration can begin?
 - We need a one-stop shop.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Follow-up/Next Steps: Q&A/Parking Lot

Next Meeting:

Date: 4/6/2023

Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Hybrid; Zoom and Flossmoor Public Library