



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 49 Family Council Meeting

**Date & Time: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 – 12:30-2:00pm**

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

Council Members absent: Jazmin Cervantes, Kristen Petry, Abigail Pritchard, Antoine Smith Sr., Georgia Stear, Ashley Tharp

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

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

#### **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.

#### **Regional Strengths & Needs**

- **ECEC Programs**
  - Funding advocacy
  - Community assessment (AOK)
  - One size does not fit all
  - Workforce compensation as a shortfall
  - Child care – sharing and collaborating over data
  - Accurate representation of slot gap
  - How workforce shortages impact slot gap
  
- **Priority Populations**
  - “Patchwork” of services
  - Climate of fear/mistrust
  - Bridge the gaps
  - Interpretation services
  - Coalition for Immigrants & Refugees



- Need for liaison and community resource navigators, serving their own communities
- Providers willing to accept Medicaid – approval process complicated
- **Additional Areas**
  - Community Collaborations
    - Cross-reference and data sharing
    - Pediatrics share information with Regional Office of Education
    - Universal screening
  - Slot Gap
    - Slots for 1/3 of Rock Island County 0-5 year olds
    - Workforce shortage
  - Policies
    - Family and provider voice
    - Policies creating more barriers for child care programs to hire and retain staff
    - Decoupling of CCAP
  - Workforce
    - ECACE Scholarship
    - Pay equity
    - Parent mentors – multi-lingual staff recruitment

## Findings

- Child care is not accessible for all families.
- Navigating ECEC systems is hard.
  - CCAP qualification & access misrepresented by 2020 data.
- ECE is too expensive.
  - Subsidies available for higher education, but not ECE programs
  - Social injustice – stigma of being wealthy enough to have children
  - In-home services for parents forced to stay home due to cost of care
- There is a need for specialized care.
  - Medicaid approval process is complicated
  - Medicaid underpaying providers for services rendered
- Recruiting and retaining an ECEC workforce is difficult.
  - Out of seven child care centers in a CCR&R data program, eight classroom closures are reported.



- 35 lead teacher vacancies, 18 assistant teacher vacancies.
- Credentialing process is not working for child care staff.
- Parent-Mentors
- Higher education institutions are committed to educating current and future ECEC workforce.
  - Bi-lingual assessment of prior learning
  - Programs encourage the use of ECACE Scholarship
- Most understand and embrace the importance of ECEC programs and services.
  - Regional leader in creating ECEC grants funded by ARPA funding.
  - More education needs to be given.
- Local collaborations make the ECEC system better for all.
  - Spearhead of bringing ECEC services to Rock Island County
- Policy changes are not made based on provider and family weigh in.
  - Well-networked providers have more resources.
  - Resources seldom trickle down to smaller centers or family child care.
- We need more data!
  - Unduplicated numbers for slot gap
  - CCAP eligible vs. utilizing
  - United Way/Born Learning
  - IL Staffing & Salary Report – turnover is high.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, April 20, 2023 – 12:30-2:00pm**

BridgePointe 485  
1 Montgomery Drive  
Moline, IL 61265

Or via Zoom:

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