



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 1-B-C Family Council Meeting

**Location:** Flossmoor Public Library & Zoom Meeting

**Date & Time:** April 6, 2023, 5:00-7:00 PM

Council Members present: Marisa Covington, Aisha Esquivel, Simone Gatlin, Regina Harden, Sharell Howard, Brenda Lopez, LaDonna Reynolds, Kemi Robbin

Council Members absent: Tiara Magee

#### **5:00 PM: Welcome & Introduction (15 mins)**

Notes: N/A

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **5:15 PM: Ice Breaker (20 mins)**

- **Thinking about your childhood, did you have a teacher who positively impacted your childhood?**

Notes: N/A

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **5:35 PM: Review Community Agreements (5 mins)**

Notes:

- Family Council Members decided they didn't want to make any changes to the Community Agreement, and they can adjust at any time.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **5:40 PM: Meetings Overview (20 mins)**

Notes:

- Jaime Garibay-Family & Community Engagement Specialist, discussed Meeting Outlines, and if we need to pivot, we can do so.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



### **6:00 PM: Regional Scan Review (25 mins)**

Notes:

- Jaime Garibay, our FACE Specialist, shared a portion of the Regional Scan with Family Council Members to give their input.
- Family Council Members have an opportunity to have an open discussion, and responses are below:
  - Regarding the census: why are there only white, Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific islanders, and other (what is other?)
  - It appears like there are a lot of opportunities for child care—looks like we have many children and many services, looking from the data aspect.
  - On paper, things look good regarding the data on the Regional Scan.
- What is missing from the Regional Scan?
- Family Council Members have an open discussion after reviewing the Regional Scan and discuss what is missing from the Regional Scan. See responses below:
  - Disagrees with all the stipulations referring to “Everything is about a number.”
  - Over the pandemic, everything has gone up except for paychecks.
  - You are waiting for months to receive approvals from CCAP.
  - Experience with childcare has never been a peaceful transition; it’s almost set up for you to fail.
  - Data isn’t current with what is happening in Region 1-B-C.
  - As a licensed home child care provider, families can sign up for a relative to get money from the state to receive child care. How many families are enrolled in this? What kind of programs are they on? Are they receiving quality care?
  - License Exempt vs. Exempt: They choose to stay exempt vs. going to licensed (Jaime will check on more data).
  - I am surprised at the number of children unaccounted for. I think it may be because some of these children are homeschooled. I feel that should be captured in the data. Homeschooled or kept at home.
  - Also, I think there should be more options for median-income families not qualifying for Head Start or other programs.



- Still, they can't necessarily afford private child care and don't meet income requirements for affordable programs.

Decisions made: The Region 1-B-C Team will review the Family Council Members' responses and update the Regional Scan Document.

Next Steps: Family Council Members were instructed to review the Regional Scan at home and, if they think of anything else they would like to add, to email the Region 1-B-C Team.

### **6:25 PM: Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce (25 mins)**

- What is the region's early childhood education and care workforce landscape? Let's start with our children's classrooms: Do they resemble your community?

Notes:

- Family Council Members have an open discussion after reviewing the Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce in Region 1-B-C. See responses below:
  - Illinois School-Park Forest is Overcrowded but diverse.
  - Steger-Out of 30 teachers, there are maybe two African American teachers and zero Hispanic Teachers. They did have an African American principal, but she was replaced with a Hispanic principal.
  - At public schools, our children are disadvantaged compared to private schools.
  - Park Forest-Black Hawk, most of the staff is African American, with a few white teachers and no Hispanic teachers.
  - Missing parent liaisons, therapists, custodians, cooks, school bus drivers, and nurses.
- How diverse are the ECEC Workforce and the Workforce representative of their communities?
  - Family Council Members decided that the ECEC Workforce isn't very diverse in Region 1-B-C.



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**6:50 PM: Closing (10 mins)**

**Next Meeting**

Date: 4/20/2023

Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Zoom