



MEETING NOTES

Region 1-B-C Family Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: April 20, 2023, 5:00-7:00 PM

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

5:00 PM: Welcome & Introductions (10 mins)

Notes:

- Jaime Garibay-Family and Community Engagement Specialist (FACE) started the meeting with introductions and the icebreaker question.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Ice Breaker

5:10 PM: Ice Breaker (10 mins) What did you get in the MOST trouble for when you were a kid?

Notes:

- Family Council Members answered the above icebreaker question.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Review of Community Agreements

5:20 PM: Review of Community Agreements (5 mins)

Notes:

- Jaime (FACE) Specialist reviews community agreements with the Family Council, and if we need to make changes, we can do so at any time.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Family Council Meetings Overview

5:25 PM: Meetings Overview (10 mins)

Notes:

- Jaime (FACE) Specialist explained the meeting outline for the next few meetings and said he would send a version of the PowerPoint in pdf form; he



also reminded the Council that the meetings are being recorded for Region and Council use.

- Jaime (FACE) Specialist asked Family Council Members if they were okay with sharing video recordings of the meetings with Family Council Members absent from the meetings. The Family Council agreed to share meeting videos with members who can't attend the meetings.
- Ashonti Jackson-Regional Council Manager (RCM), informed Family Council Members that they are aligned with Action Council and discussed that we might start having combined meetings.
- Jaime (FACE) Specialist advised the council that the "Regional Needs Assessment" is almost complete, and there will be training on the "Regional Needs Assessment" on how to explain this to the community.

Decisions made: The Family Council Meeting recordings will only be shared with Family Council Members.

Next Steps: On-Demand Training Videos

5:35 PM: On-Demand Training Videos (5 mins)

Notes:

- Jaime (FACE) Specialist explained the available On-Demand Training Videos and shared the link emailed to the Family Council.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Decolonizing Language

5:40 PM: Decolonizing Language (5 mins)

Notes:

- Jaime (FACE) Specialist shares the "Decolonizing Language" cheat sheet to focus on better systemic solutions by Erikson Institute. It's always good to review how we address people and things to ensure we are not offensive to anyone.

Decisions made: Family Council will continue to be aware of the language they use and ensure they aren't being offensive.

Next Steps: Google Drive Overview

5:45 PM: Google Drive Overview (15 mins)

Notes:



- Jaimie (FACE) Specialist shared that all Family Council Members should have access to Google Drive and shared QR/link, and if they don't have access to the drive to reach out to the Region 1-B-C Team.
- Family Council know they can comment on documents in the drive.
- Jaime (FACE) Specialist offered a quick Google Drive tutorial; if they need to get more one-on-one, they can contact the Region 1-B-C Team.
- Information from each meeting is uploaded to google drive (jam board, PowerPoints, agendas, meeting notes, etc.).

Decisions made: Family Council will reach out to Region 1-B-C Team if they need assistance with Google Drive.

Next Steps: Review ECEC Workforce

6:00 PM: Review ECEC Workforce (25 mins)

Notes:

- Jaime (FACE) Specialist shared the ECEC workforce jam board for Family Council Members to add more information to the board and answer the questions below:
 1. What is the region's early childhood education and care workforce landscape?
 - Family Council Members speak on the Diversity in ECEC Workforce:

The teachers in Oaklawn are a mix of Hispanics and whites, and I observed a similar trend in the neighborhood schools.

 - Depending on the neighborhood, from what I've seen, most of the workforce is white women, but in low-income areas, it's mainly Black or Hispanic women.
 - Most times, they reflect the community they serve.
 - Hardly any Hispanic/Latino or even bilingual teachers.
 - Family Council Members speak on the difficulty of retaining staff:
 - Wages are unfair; many staff are getting paid the same pay as someone at Starbucks.
 - When considering the pay and benefits, can you retire on this salary while working at Child Care Centers?
 - So many young children are coming in with more challenging behaviors, which can take a toll on the staff.



- Mentally, it can be stressful; it burdens the providers and the parents.
 - Ongoing training requirements continue to increase, making it harder for providers to keep their staff up with the requirements.
 - After covid, job opportunities opened, and many people went into low-stress careers. During covid, many staff left due to the funds being given during that hardship and never returned.
 - Not given proper resources to do their jobs effectively.
 - Family Council Members speak on why staff leaves vs. staying:
 - Staff leave because once administrators see how a teacher can deal with a difficult class, they keep making them go every year with the same class when instead of seeing what the teacher is doing to manage the class, they pin it on the teacher.
 - They also leave because of a lack of funding for each class, so the teachers must spend out of pocket.
2. Do you feel your child receives quality care within their ECEC program/programs?
- Family Council Members discuss the quality of care their child/children are or have received:
 - Staff Strengths/Weaknesses:
 - Lack of communication.
 - Children being ignored.
 - CCAP takes too long to review/approve cases, and payments are delayed, affecting the provider's ability to pay staff.
 - Do you think CCAP funding makes a difference? Yes and no, the funding does help with resources, but the staff must want to be there and have a passion.



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Parent/Family Engagement

6:25 PM: Parent/Family Engagement (25 mins)

Notes:

- Jaime (FACE) Specialist talks to Family Council about the Strengths, Barriers, and Needs for Parent/Family Engagement and asks for Family Council Members to give feedback on ECEC Providers, Families/Caregivers, and Both Combined.
- Family Council Members responded below:
 - Parent/Family Engagement Strengths:
 - ECEC Providers: Location/Facilities, ECACE Scholarship, Gateways, Support from IL Governor, Networks with other providers.
 - Families/Caregivers: Enrolled families in ECEC programs are supported.
 - Both: Some ECEC funding, SPED Services, CCAP for families.
 - Parent/Family Engagement Barriers:
 - ECEC Providers: Quality training for staff, low staff, no Spanish-speaking staff, funding, parent engagement, limited seats available due to funding, community partnership, and DCFS licensing requirements.
 - Families/Caregivers: finding quality, affordable child care, access to technology or lack of knowledge (internet, computers, smartphones, etc.), lack of Spanish-speaking teachers, long applications, going to several places to get services, lack of knowledge of services in the area.
 - Both: Transportation, access to resources, community support, and immigration status.
 - Parent/Family Engagement Needs:



- ECEC Providers: Better pay, more classroom support(assistant), flexibility to pursue additional education, better staff training, ECEC workforce.
- Families/Caregivers: Additional transportation services, extended care/nontraditional hours, transportation, affordable childcare, a more seamless process for applying for services (one-stop-shop), more information on available programs, additional services for homeless families.
- Both: additional publicly funded slots, realistic income guidelines, ECEC collaboration/coordinated intake, additional care for birth to three, and better EI programs.

Decisions made: Family Council Members can access Jam Board to add additional thoughts to include in our Regional Needs Assessment.

Next Steps: Q & A

6:50 PM: Question & Answer/Parking Lot (10 mins)

Notes: N/A

Decisions made: N/A

Follow-up/Next Steps:

Next Meeting

May 4, 2023

6:00-7:30 PM

Location: TBD-In Person Meeting