



MEETING NOTES

Region 49 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 – 12:30-2:00pm

Council Members present: Jazmin Cervantes, Natalie Doyle, Jamie Nordling, Kristen Petry, Abigail Pritchard, Antoine Smith Sr., Georgia Steer, Ashley Tharp
Council Members absent: Kristi Dalberg, Jennifer Mayares-Soberanis, Dominique Mendoza, Silvia Salinas-Torres, Amanda Wentler

Welcome, Introductions & Teambuilding

Notes: Family Council members introduced themselves, their city, and the members of their families.

Action Council Updates

Notes: Emily Cummings shared the progress of the Action Council in digesting the workforce, slot gap, and Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) data.

Review of Previously Reviewed Data

Notes: Angelica Villarreal reviewed data sources and the demographics of our region's population of children birth through age five.

Small Group Discussion: Region 49 Slot Gap

Notes: Family Council members divided in small groups to discuss the data present in hard copy and through Google Slides. Members reconvene to share out data points that were noteworthy or surprising.

Whole Group Discussion

Notes: Angelica Villarreal brought members together to share out some of the most profound data points reviewed and questions brought within small groups. Family Council members shared the following:

- This data is impactful, but it is important to note the data was collected through Census tracking.
 - Is the community outreach for Census participation satisfactory?
 - There may be cultural or trust barriers keeping families from participating.



- Public schools offered space for families to complete Census in a secure environment.
- Is the Census translated to accommodate our non-English speaking residents?
- Workforce Data
 - Is higher education encouraged? Is it affordable? ECACE Scholarship currently available – does it encourage longevity in the field?
 - Recruitment/Retention grants available currently.
 - Insufficient staff numbers.
 - It is difficult to attract and retain staff to a high demand, low pay field.
 - Low male presence – how to reverse the stigma attached to men caring for children?
 - Early Childhood Mental Health supports & advocacy needed.
 - 10% of workforce identifies as administrator – too many?
- Slot Gap
 - Infant/Toddler care is needed – long wait lists.
 - Care for 3 to 5 year old is more attainable.
 - Slot gap is exacerbated for families who need child care services during non-traditional hours and days.
 - Parent choice – availability versus quality.
 - Cost of caring for infants is higher due to teacher to child ratios.
 - Slot gap includes those children who do not *have to* have care.
- CCAP
 - Illinois has extended income eligibility to 225% of Federal Poverty Level.
 - Program is backlogged with approvals.
 - Nuance of providing excessive documentation.
 - Incentives to accept CCAP?

Impactful Quotes of the Day

- “If you can’t go to work, you can’t provide for your family.”
- “I have had to sacrifice financially to put my daughter somewhere that, in my opinion, I believe has a higher quality of care.”

Next Family Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 – 12:30-2:00pm

Location: BridgePoint 485 – 1 Montgomery Dr. – Moline, IL 61265