



MEETING NOTES

Region 30 Virtual Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: 1/10/2023, 6:00pm—7:30pm

Family Council Members present: Veronika Parrone, Kimberly Myers, Breanna Puckett-Woods, Keosha Woods, Amanda Sullivan, Denasha Oliver, Alessandra Nicholson, Lyndsey McCann, Nicki Rathert, and Shauna McGuire

Family Council Members absent: Micole Larry, Breanna Kobus, Amanda Hester, Victoria Taylor, and Sonya Clark

6:00pm Welcome & Group Warmup Activity—My Emoji Mood (15 mins)

Notes: Linda welcomed everyone to our virtual Family Council Meeting and asked our two new members to introduce themselves and share their stories. One Member/Pharmacist from Jackson County shared that her child experienced abuse at a child care institution. Also, didn't realize that she needed to get on a child care waitlist at her second trimester. Also had a bad experience with an at-home child care provider. Another new Member/Business Owner from Perry County shared that her parents owned a licensed child care facility and she grew up in this environment. She has owned and ran different programs for kids in the area and currently owns an art studio as a purpose to bond kids with their parents.

Linda proceeded to ask everyone to select an emoji that best describes their current mood. We went "around" and everyone shared their thoughts and feelings about their day, etc.

6:15pm Family Council Round Table Discussion (45mins)

Notes: Linda shared a whiteboard and proposed three questions to be answered together by county representation as follows:

1. When you think of your community, what comes to mind?

Alexander County: lack of housing, families, churches, lack of businesses, school district, and Head Start.

Jackson County: bigger city therefore more options, SIU and JALC, Amish Community in Ava/Campbell Hill area along with rural areas of the county, diversity in Carbondale, otherwise older people, active Facebook groups, and volunteers.

Perry County: rural/small town, lack of transportation.

Pulaski County: quite a few churches, grocery store.

Union County: farmland, churches, few different schools (i.e. Anna, Jonesboro, Lick Creek, etc.).

2. What programs are available in your Region that offer services for children birth to five?

Alexander County: Head Start, Pre-K/Cairo Elementary.

Jackson County: there is a waiting list for most programs with not many options available, Head Starts, SIU Lab, Carbondale New School, Montessori in Murphysboro is expensive, there are several at-home licensed providers.

Perry County: Presbyterian Pre-K, Pre-K through SIU, lack of space available for child care, really hard to get a spot.

Pulaski County: Head Start, one at-home licensed child care provider, several license-exempt child care providers, Pre-K at Meridian Elementary.

Union County: Pre-K at Anna Heights Baptist Church, new child care center opening in the future.

3. With the lack of child care options and long waitlists, how do you manage the needs of your family?

Alexander County: rely on family and friends, after-school enrichment program.

Jackson County: use vacation and sick time to be able to care for kids, waiting lists are long and have to juggle transportation, rely on family, have to accept low quality child care, turned down job offers because of not having family near to help with children, lots of library programs.

Perry County: rely on family, swap child care with a friend and work around schedules, mothers are disproportionately expected to take care of sick children, not many after-school care programs, Du Quoin Youth Club available for older children, after school Art Club for older children at the Library.

Pulaski County: after school enrichment program.

Union County: juggling transportation, family helps, reach out to other people with children, miss work days by using sick days to care for children.

All Members contributed to answer these questions by County. Whiteboards are saved with the data gathered. Family Council Members also mentioned the following:

- Murphysboro/Jackson County has a great need for child care. Member states she cares for her family member's kids
- Perry County has lack of space for child care
- Jackson County parent stated her relatives had to help her for three weeks after she went back to work after having a baby so that she was able to go back to work and not lose her job
- Perry County doesn't have many after care programs
- Jackson County parent also stated that during COVID nobody wanted to watch her kids because of her exposure working in the Healthcare field. Also, kids' room would be quarantined and she'd be unable to drop her kids off and go to work
- Perry County Member states she lost child care arrangements with another family due to COVID
- Jackson County Member states she had to take the option to work from home some days and use sick days on other days to be able to be home during COVID
- Jackson County Member states that once she had to leave her kid where she knew quality child care wasn't being offered but had no other choice
- Union County Member states she had to reach out to other families with kids with similar ages as well as stay at home moms to look for help


7:00pm Group Questions (5mins)

Notes: Linda asked Members if there were any questions, concerns, or comments.

7:05pm Break (10mins)

7:15pm Closing—Region Google Drive/Resources & New Year's Resolution Team Activity (15mins)

Notes: Zena shared her screen and showed our Region's Google Drive and resources available including trainings.



Linda asked everyone to share their New Year's Resolution. Everyone shared their thoughts on the subject. Linda thanked everyone for their time and efforts.

7:30pm Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: Everyone agreed to meet on the first Tuesday of next Monday, February 7, 2023, due to Valentine's Day being the second Tuesday of the month.