



MEETING NOTES

Region 35 Family Council Meeting

Location: Ottawa, IL

Date & Time: 01/17/2023, 5:00pm-6:47pm

Council Members present: Elissa Barker, Kelsie Hardy, Steffanie Maxwell, David Trenor, Molly Wiley, Chris Bickel, Randi Paquette
Council Members absent: Sean Dergance

5:00pm Welcome & Introduction of Members-Consent to Record (3min)

Notes: All approved

5:03pm Ice Breaker – Word association game (17min)

Notes:

Char created a slide of ten words. Each Member then responded with the first word to come to their mind.

5:20pm Introduction to PowerPoint - Current Licensed Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) within region 35 (11min)

Notes:

The list included all licensed Home, Group, and Centers within LaSalle, Marshall, and Putnam counties.

5:31pm Discussion (1hr 10min)

Follow up on the following:

- 1. How are families deciding which providers to choose from?**
- 2. What barriers do you feel exist?**
- 3. Where and when would be a good way for families to become aware of programs that do exist?**
- 4. If your child/children were born in another city/county/state, what ECEC services or education options did they have available there that you would like to see here?**
- 5. What challenges have you faced in finding ECEC services?**



Notes:

- “LaSalle county has child care centers however Marshall and Putnam counties consist of home providers outside of one.”
- “The Henry area is limited in resources and child care is expensive to the point where some families are considering moving out of state.”
- “It is difficult to trust a daycare because the only resource you really have is online.”
- “One experience we found in Florida was most child care centers with reasonable costs were run by religious entities.”
- “In home daycares have waiting lists and there were no centers, so we were lucky enough to have family.”
- “Knowing what is available for home daycare is hard to find.”
- “The problems I see in most every center I have worked at is it becomes a business.”
- “When I moved back, I relied on word of mouth.”
- “The thing I found is they were having a big staffing problem. I ended up taking her out of the center due to being sick so often. I then transferred her to a home provider who was not licensed due to waiting lists at licensed providers.”
- “People who are keeping their kids local in Leland are primarily working part-time or have family close. Other parents, commute with their children and they attend centers closer to work.”
- “It all comes down to, again, parents having resources.”
- “Facebook group chats are full of posts where families are looking for care.”
- “Parents are not receiving detailed information from any one source.”
- “WIC was very helpful for me when I lived out of state in Colorado and maybe we could provide them with a list of provider resources.”
- “Wyoming would give you a list of resources above and beyond when you qualified for state services. In moving to Illinois, I barely received anything and trying to talk to anybody on what can help you takes a long time.”
- “In this area, we have stayed with the same provider about 15 minutes away and we have my mother-in-law who helps with the commute to daycare since it is to the south of us.”
- “It would be nice to find services and resources for IEPs.”
- “The removal of Head Start in the Earlville/LaSalle County affected the community.”
- “There is a barrier involving unlicensed providers because they can lose their right to babysit due to DCFS licensing standards.”



6:41pm Follow up from last week (6min)

- 1. How do we get families to participate and come to events?**
- 2. What draws them to give us their time?**

Notes:

- “Food trucks, free tacos.”
- “Activities for the children to also be involved would be beneficial.”
- “Dual events would be nice for example, parents are at a soccer event, why not have a dual event where parents could also gain resources and information?”

6:47pm Follow-up/Next Steps:

Notes:

Verify with Action Council what the program is Illinois Valley Community College has.
Follow-up with resource needs via Facebook post