



MEETING NOTES

Region 54 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 22, 2023, 11:30 AM

Council Members present: Elizabeth Cannon, Mary Surprenant, Mia Harrier, Niah Hamilton, Odette Hyatt-Watson, Tamara L Red, Tamera Forthenberry, and Tim Dudley

Council Members absent: Chris Rice, Cindy Montgomery, Cynthia Smith, Kathy Vines, Lisa Abdelghani, Lisa Langellier, Michael Marron, and Paige Rogge

Welcome and Icebreaker (5 minutes)

Notes: This meeting was a virtual meeting and council members attended via Zoom. A couple of fun Icebreaker questions were visually presented, and council members answered them as they logged on.

Special Speaker: Marta Mitchell-District 118 Family Liaison (10 mins)

Notes: Our special speaker, Marta Mitchell – District 118 Family Liaison, shared what her position entailed and how it is helpful to our community. She wears many hats in her role. A few of her tasks are:

- Communicate with families and school staff on a regular basis
- Conduct outreach activities to increase awareness of Pre-K programs
- Conduct parent education classes on the importance of early education and how to assist their children with educational activities at home

This position is a great asset to our community. Family Liaisons help bridge the communication gap between schools and parents/caregivers.

Revisit the Reimagined ECEC in Vermilion County (30 mins)

Notes: Council members were asked to revisit how they wanted to reimagine ECEC in Vermilion County in 10 years. They reviewed what was discussed at the last meeting along with any new thoughts. In addition to the last meeting, Council Members would like to see:

- Larger Corporations assisting in child care for their employees



- More support in the food program that involves children (ex: funding, healthier food choices, more food banks)
- Community organizations providing a more kid-friendly hands-on learning environment

Location, Enrollment, and Cost of Child Care in Our Region Discussion and Child Care Assistance Program Discussion (50 minutes)

Notes: A PowerPoint was presented to Council Members focusing on the following:

- Types of programs offered in Vermilion County
 - Maps of ECEC programs locations in our county
 - Enrollment numbers of children in ECEC programs
- Cost of Child Care
 - Cost of licensed and licensed-exempt providers in our county
 - The state Child Care Assistance program was presented
- Child enrollment graphs
 - Researched enrollment numbers for various schools throughout the county were compared against available spots and waiting list numbers

Council members discussed what they saw on the charts and were asked to tell us their thoughts about the information.

Next Steps: Use the information learned from the presented PowerPoint and discussion to answer the parting questions.

Parting Questions (20 minutes)

Notes: Council members took the information reviewed today and used it to answer the parting questions.

- Where and when would be a good way for families to become aware of these programs early on? How can we reach those that may be isolated in the home and not in the community?
 - Providers working together as a team with each other, and families would be a great place to start spreading the word on ECEC programs that are offered. Once all providers realize that we are on the same team, we are all working towards the same goal, transitions will be



easier. The birth to five growth in a child would be easier for parents and caregivers to navigate through because they would know where to for questions and help.

- What does the data tell us about what our Region might need in the future?
 - There were many ideas as to what our Region might need in the future: transportation, more employees, more daycare options, and more. These would be less of a barrier if there were more funding and people working in the ECEC program field.

Next Steps: Use the information gathered today to update our regional scan.