



MEETING NOTES

Region 54 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday February 23, 2023, 6:00 PM

Council Members present: Xandra Anderson, Arian Dodge, Ariana Lawless, Ashley Omlor, Brittany Coleman, Diamond Moss, Haley Rhoades, Jennalynne Wright, Jenn Wright, Jonathan Munoz, Kari Hastings, Kourtney Manno, Kristina Dreher, Mindy Dolan, and Tateana Bailey

Council Members absent: Jerri Whetstone

Welcome and Icebreaker (10 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.

Revisit the Reimagined ECEC in Vermilion County (20 minutes)

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:

- More child care options in rural areas
- Shorter waitlist
- Easy to understand child care application

Location, Enrollment, and Cost of Child Care in our Region Discussion and Child Care Assistance Program Discussion (60 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?
 - Council Members would like to see outreach on social media, surveys in doctors' offices, busses, billboards, hospitals/NICUs, and most importantly word of mouth.
- What does the data tell us about what our Region might need in the future?
 - Vermilion County needs more funding for staffing, child care assistance, and tuition reimbursement for everyone.
 - Along with child care facilities being fully staffed, Council Members would like to have quality care for their children. Parents and caregivers need to be able to trust whomever they chose to leave their child with.
 - Parents may not be aware their child(ren) qualifies for assistance or are never told about these services. We as a community need to do better at getting the word out about services in our area.

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