



MEETING NOTES

Region 48 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: January 11, 2023, 6:00pm – 7:30 pm

Council Members present: Gary Craig, Kristin McGraw, Courtney Kilgore, Kerishena Metz, Folanda James, Anita Frei, Maricela Nieto, Megan Crookham, Maribeth Larson, Hunter Stahl, Timothy Whitacre-Albertson

Welcome, Introductions, Review of Community Agreements

Notes: Introductions included an answer to the icebreaker question, "What is an activity you enjoy doing with your family?" Kari reviewed the Community Agreements and opened to discussion. All members agreed to it.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Recap - Family Council Purpose, Member Expectations

Notes: Sarah presented the purpose of the Family Council and reviewed the Member Expectations. No discussion took place.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Updates, Facebook Group, Resources

Notes: Kari provided an update on the Action Council, as well as for the Family Council itself. She announced the Region's Facebook group and included information about our photo release form. Lastly, Kari informed the Council members about trainings available through Action for Children for anyone that may be interested. A reminder was given to the Council that there is a Google Drive set up that includes all relevant information for members.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



Large Group Discussion

Notes: The question was posed to the group: "In general, what strengths does our region have?" Members gave various answers.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Demographics Data Presentation and Discussion

Notes: IECAM ("eye cam") is the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map and is where most of our data comes from. Kari explained how Region 48 boundaries were determined and how they slightly differ from county boundaries.

Kari presented the number of children aged from birth to five years old in our region. Kari asked the Council, "Is there anything on the map that surprises you?"

Kari showed another map that again included the location and density of children, but overlapped with publicly funded ECEC sites. She asked, "Is there anything with this map that you notice?" Kari also asked, "Is there anything that is concerning?" Members agreed that preschools and child care providers are not located where most of the children are.

The next slides showed data about children living in poverty. Members agreed that the data is alarming, considering the limited availability of slots and how many children qualify for services. Discussion continued that many people find themselves not qualifying, and that the difference was sometimes just a few dollars.

Kari presented a map that showed areas of poverty compared to ECEC providers. It was noted by a member that the most resources were available where poverty was the highest, and wondered if areas lacking child care and preschool availability don't have the need for it. Further discussion included how some rural families may find child care close to work rather than home. It was noted that there were surprising areas that had children in poverty and ECEC providers and sites.

The next slides showed race and ethnicity, and the number of families that are Spanish-speaking and other non-English-speaking households.



The next slides provided data about working families. A member asked if this data was only for full-time employment, or if part-time was included as well, and Kari said it was unspecified.

Kari asked if there was anything that was surprising about the data presented. A member indicated the lack of services in the rural areas was surprising. The data provides information on how to better fund services in areas that need it. There is a lot of missing information, including how children are transported to and from ECEC providers and sites.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Open for Additional Questions

Notes: One member said the data was eye-opening, and others agreed. No further discussion.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Wrap-Up, Meeting Schedule

Notes: The next meeting scheduled for January 25 will focus on Slot Gap. Kari mentioned to the members that if they have any additional questions or comments, they are encouraged to email her, or bring them up at the next meeting.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Adjourn

Follow-up/Next Steps: N/A

Next Meeting will be:

Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Location: Hybrid – Region 48 office or Zoom