



MEETING NOTES

Region 48 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: July 12, 2023, 6:00pm – 7:30 pm

Council Members present: Laurel Huston, Anita Frei, C'Ante Morris, Indirea Slaughter, Hunter Stahl, Kristin McGraw, Kerishena Metz, Gary Craig, Megan Crookham, Shelby Hall

Welcome, Review of Community Agreements

Notes: Melissa began the meeting with a quick welcome and a review of the Community Agreements. No changes were made.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Ice Breaker

Notes: Melissa posed an icebreaker question, asking what Council members liked/enjoyed about being part of the Family Council.

- Liked being able to be knowledgeable about the data, hear others share their experiences, and be able to give input as a group.
- Enjoyed getting to talk to other parents and get their experiences, hearing the experiences of parents with older children, and learning from them as her son gets older.
- "I love the diversity of the group. I enjoy being able to give Early Childhood and Early Intervention a voice."
- "Learned so much about the services and our gaps as I start to navigate for my son. I enjoy hearing others share their experiences."
- Enjoyed working with other people and connecting. It was great because she's pro-level at this stage and happy to share with other families just getting into the weeds.
- Enjoyed listening, learned a lot from hearing others' experiences, and that it's a diverse group.
- "I enjoy learning how everybody has different inputs on what needs to be done."

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



Regional Needs Assessment Update, Recruitment & Events, Sharing

Notes: Melissa informed the Council that the tentative release date for the Regional Needs Assessment is the week of July 17th and to keep an eye out for a Facebook post, E-Blast, etc.

Dissemination: Melissa asked the Council if they are interested in helping, and to reach out to volunteer. Two members volunteered.

Family Council Recruitment: Melissa shared the representation that we are missing for our Councils.

Upcoming Events: Melissa provided a list of events we have scheduled to attend in July, and asked the Family Council to let us know if they hear of any events where we could host a table. She also invited Council members to attend events with us as a Family representative to talk with the community alongside the Region 48 staff.

Question: What do you wish you knew in the beginning, that you will now know in year 2?

- Learning about Easter Seals.
- Liked hearing there are parents wanting their children to experience diversity (nationality, places, etc) to be aware of things growing up.
- "I think I've learned a lot. I don't think necessarily there's something I wish I would have known before, I think it's all been part of the process!"
- "I learned so much and the different resources and programs out there."

Question: What do you hope to see in year 2?

- For the council to grow, and for there to be more activities for the Council.
- "I look forward to changes and more topics covered."
- "Continuing to learn new information and Council activities."
- "Seeing our years' worth of work put to use."
- "I would like the time we spend to help Illinois make some real changes. I would like to see the changes Illinois makes impact our community."
- "I'm glad I'm part of this meeting; I'm learning a lot."

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Wrap-Up, Meeting Schedule

Notes: A member asked, "The Regional Needs Assessment, can I take that and share it with certain people? For example, I'll be meeting with some people at my school district." Yes, please share this information.



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Adjourn

Follow-up/Next Steps:

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm