



MEETING NOTES

Region 35 Family Council Meeting

Location: Ottawa, IL

Date & Time: 02/20/2023, 5:18-6:48pm

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

5:18pm Welcome & Introductions (3min)

5:21pm Ice Breaker-Who was your childhood famous crush? (7min)

5:28pm Priority Populations (13min)

Facilitator: Charlotte McWade

Notes:

- Explanation of the percentages of unhoused and types within region 35 with the importance placed on this being the initial placement. Comparison piece of the entire central region overall to Birth to Five Illinois: Region 35 where data is relevant to our age groups. Data shows an increase within foster care families in partial regions and reason to be concerned.

5:41pm Barriers within Personas (1hr 7mins)

Facilitator: Charlotte McWade

Notes:

Jamboard activity

- Council members place themselves into situations of others to perceive their daily life as well as scenarios they may face. These oppositions take form as young single mothers, unhoused situations, poverty or deep poverty, children/families with Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) involvement, and children with disabilities.



Concerning questions:

1-What is holding you back from acquiring access to Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programs and services?

2-What are the root causes of these barriers, and why do they exist?

- Difficult to find child care and the cost is high.
- Resources for all situations are lacking and difficult to find.
- The services provided are more accessible to mothers.
- Fathers have a persona to make them feel they must be a provider.
- With every situation evaluated trying to save money is difficult.
- Finding resources is confusing or not easy to obtain due to a lack of transportation options in the region.
- Depression is a result.
- Language barriers exist for those who need assistance.
- Consistency is not happening / longevity of change is not rational for some fathers.
- Rural communities do not offer the same therapeutic resources for a child as Suburban schools so families uproot their children for better care.
- Parents are unaware that schools must provide services for children with disabilities if is not accessible lack of knowledge and resources.
- Inconvenient locations of services. Safety Concerns.
- Trust issues due to not having access to quality care.
- Food access, depression, and programs are directed more toward helping moms.

6:48pm Wrap up and adjournment-Schedule Future meetings:

Notes:

Proceeding through jamboard at slide 10 via email and will continue to review from slide 10 on, at beginning of the next Family Council meeting.