



MEETING NOTES

Region 54 Family Council Meeting

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

Council Members present: 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: Xandra Anderson and Jerri Whetstone

Welcome & Icebreaker (10 mins)

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

Review Regional Scan Purpose (10 mins)

Notes: We informed the Council Members of what topics will be included in the Regional Scan. Topics include:

- Demographics
- Local Community Collaborations
- Early Childhood Education and Care Programs
- Slot Gap
- Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce
- Parent, Family, and Caregiver Engagement
- Regional Strengths and Needs
- Recommendations

These topics were the focal point of our past Council meetings and were used to compare the responses between the two Councils.



Compare Action and Family Council Findings (30 mins)

Notes: We reviewed all past meeting notes from both councils and prepared a PowerPoint, comparing both Action Council and Family Council Members' responses to each topic.

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

Parting Question (30 mins)

Notes: After reviewing what was previously covered in prior meetings, we asked the council members the following questions:

- Are these topics an accurate representation of how parents, families, and caregivers experience the ECEC system in our region?
- If yes, why, and how do we know these topics are accurate? Do we need to explore anything else?
- If not, why not? In what ways are these topics inaccurate? How can we change them and/or what else should we explore to understand the differences between these topics?
- Who else should we talk with?
- Are there topics and/or insights that are not here or that you expected to see?

Council members agreed that the correct information and responses were captured from past meetings. They talked about the few new up and coming businesses in the Region are for children's recreational use, such as Jump Off and Illini Skate Land. Council Members mentioned they would like to see more of these businesses open up, especially in the rural areas. Council Members would also like for us to conduct a focus group for grandparents raising grandchildren (this is scheduled already), along with a focus group with foster parents (we have been attempting to accomplish this and are still trying).

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