



MEETING NOTES

Region 54 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, March 9, 2023, 6:00 PM

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

Council Members absent: Arian Dodge, and Jerri Whetstone

Welcome and Icebreaker (5 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.

Special Speaker: Jennifer Spinks & Amanda York are Higher Education Navigators at Child Care Resources Services CCRS (30 minutes)

Notes: Our special speakers, Jennifer Spinks and Amanda York, spoke on how their roles as Higher Education Navigators are to connect Early Childhood workers to higher education. They help walk people through the process step-by-step.

Their positions are an asset to our community because they provide multiple resources to Early Childhood workers from the beginning to the end. The higher education system can be hard to navigate.

Workforce (60 minutes)

Notes: A PowerPoint was presented to the council with the following information:

- A chart on who is included in the ECEC Workforce
 - Education Workers
 - Health and Nutrition Workers
 - Social and Child Protection Workers
- A graph with Vermilion County ECE positions as of March 2021



- Licensed Centers Positions
- Licensed Centers Directors
- Licensed Centers Teaching Staff
- Licensed Family Child Care
- ECEC Workforce Initiatives
 - Education Reimbursements
 - Scholarships
 - Educational/Monetary Incentives
- Building and Supporting a Qualified/High-Quality ECEC Workforce discussion
 - Optimizing Supply
 - Managing Quality and Retention

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

Parting Questions (30 minutes)

Notes: Council Members took the information reviewed today and used it to answer the parting questions.

- How diverse is the ECEC Workforce and is the Workforce representative of the communities they serve?
 - Not many male workers
 - Staff race does not reflect the student population
 - Not many teachers and directors with a degree higher than an Associates Degree
 - Race is not very diverse
 - Language barriers mean children may not be getting services
- In your opinion, what is causing the ECEC staff to leave?
 - High demand and low pay/unrealistic caseloads
 - No support from upper administration and parental support
 - With the constant change of teaching requirements from the state, make it almost impossible to keep up
 - Language barriers
 - Children may not be getting the services they need due to not having providers that speak their language