



MEETING NOTES

Region 11 Family Council Meeting

Location: Virtual

Date & Time: 4/18/23 6-8 pm

Council Members present: Nicole Thiel, Samantha Bush, Elizabeth Houser, Morgan Waller, Holly Smith, Tammy Helm, Kayli Bontrager, Linda Gamble

Council Members absent: Dariah Rawdin, Alycia Prouse, Brooke Cramer

6:00 Welcome (18 min)

Notes:

- Kayli welcomed everyone and shared the agenda for the meeting.
- Kayli had everyone share in an ice breaker that included their name, mood, and their favorite spring activity.
- Kayli shared the minutes from the last meeting.
- Tammy shared an update from the Action Council about what they are doing including the needs and recommendations for region 11.
- Kayli shared an update on the regional needs assessment. She stated that she would email sections of it for council members to review and approve.
- Kayli shared the strengths and needs for each county in our region.
- Kayli reviewed the community agreements.
- Kayli shared that there were no other known collaborations in our region and that we would like to see growth in HS & EHS, Special Education, and individual student growth.

6:18 ECEC Workforce Overview (12 min)

Notes:

- Kaylie explained what the ECEC workforce is and that we should have parent engagement included because these are the people teaching our children and need to know what is working and what isn't.
- Kaylie shared an overview of all the different providers/teachers that we have in our region and what kind of credentials they have.
- Kayli shared data from INCCRRA's research on what the workforce looks like in terms of data from the different positions held and the diversity in those positions throughout our region.



- Kayli shared the importance of parent and family experiences in early childhood education for the Regional Needs Assessment.

6:30 Break (15 min)

6:45 Report Out – ECEC Workforce (31 min)

Notes:

- Kayli led the discussion on Why is it difficult to keep staff?
 - Pay
 - Burn out rate.
 - Lack of resources
- In your opinion what is causing staff to stay?
 - Connection to the kids.
 - Like being able to implement the early learning and seeing that light bulb moment when they get what you're teaching them.
 - They have a calling to teach, a passion for it.
- What strengths do staff have?
 - Their joy and love for the kids
 - They are willing to collaborate with all involved with the children such as speech, PT, etc.
- Do you feel your child is receiving quality care within their ECEC program?
 - Not special needs children.
 - Not receiving the "best" care due to limited resources.
 - All federally funded programs such as HS should have the same resources available to all the HS programs.
 - More training for special needs children.
- How diverse is the workforce? And does it represent the community they serve?
 - Mostly no diversity, some in students in a couple of counties.
 - For the most part, it does represent the communities they serve.
- What does quality care look like for locations that accept CCAP and ones that don't accept it?
 - Places that take CCAP seem to be extremely full and therefore may not have as much quality due to not as much support.

7:16 Report Out – Parent/Family (8 min)

Notes:



- Kayli led the discussion on Parent/Family questions.
- Has anything in particular been helpful in making ECEC work for your family?
 - Yes, because all therapy is done at school.
 - Yes, transportation is provided.
- What is working for your families ECEC system or not?
 - Having transportation works.
 - Not having transportation hurts.
 - Need more men in ECEC.
 - Need sensory resources.
 - Lack of full day programs.
 - Lack of providers.
- What sacrifices or decisions has your family made surrounding issues?
 - From interviews there have been parents that have had to quit their jobs to stay home with their child.

7:24 Prepare for next meeting (6 min)

Notes:

- Kayli shared that there will be a catch-up meeting on Monday at 6 pm
- Kayli shared that our next meeting will be at 6 pm on 5/18/23 and we will be discussing regional strengths and needs.
- Kayli also shared that our next meeting will be a combined meeting with the Action Council at the Mattoon Public Library in the basement and we will have a catered meal.

Follow-up/Next Steps: