



MEETING NOTES

Region 54 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday April 20, 2023 6:00 PM

Council Members present: Arian Dodge, Ariana Lawless, Ashley Omlor, Haley Rhoades, Jennalynne Wright, Jenn Wright, Kari Hastings, Kourtney Manno, Kristina Dreher, Mindy Dolan, and Xandra Anderson

Council Members absent: Brittany Coleman, Jerri Whetstone, Jonathan Munoz, and Tateana Bailey

Icebreaker (20 minutes)

Notes: This was a hybrid meeting. Council Members attended in person or via Zoom. The PowerPoint was presented and discussed; Council Members on Zoom either came off mute to talk or added to the chat that then was shared with the group by the team.

Easy Transitions for Children: From Early Intervention to Preschool/Head Start and for Children going from County to County (30 minutes)

Notes: Easy transitions are important all around. This would help children avoid falling through the cracks in the system and parents would also have a better understanding of the transition process.

Next Steps: To begin this process the following would need to happen:

- Have meetings for parents and caregivers at times that would fit their schedules
- Lots of communication options for families (call, email, text, social media)
- Have an "overall" form that would be able to be used by multiple providers
- Have fliers and other informational handouts

People that need to be involved in this process include

- Parents and caregivers
- People of the community
- School Personnel
- ECEC programs



- WIC
- iGrow
- Hospitals/Doctor's offices
- Homeless shelters

Decisions made: Council Members have decided to use this recommendation in the Regional Needs Assessment.

Transportation to and from Preschool (20 minutes)

Notes: Council Members discussed the importance of providing transportation for children eligible for Preschool programs. They believe that there would be better attendance along with being able to serve more children in Vermilion County.

Next Steps: To begin the process the following is needed:

- Involve parents and caregivers
- Involve Head Start programs
- Involve bus transportation (Danville Mass Transit DMT and First Student)
- Hand out fliers around the County to get the word out at grocery stores, coffee shops, doctor's offices, and ect.

Decisions made: Council Members have decided to use this recommendation in the Regional Needs Assessment.

One-Stop-Shop (20 minutes)

Notes: Council Members stated that they would like to have a central location that houses all the available programs in Vermilion County. This is important because it would give peace of mind to parents and caregivers when in need of resources. Council Members would also like for this entity to have a shared system that would be able to be used by all providers in the building, eliminating the hassle of extensive paperwork every time you need a new resource.

Next Steps: To begin the process of a one-stop-shop we would need:

- A location: already existing or build from the ground up
- Have a collaboration in Vermilion County
- Include all ECEC programs and school districts in Vermilion County



Decisions made: Council Members have decided to use this recommendation in the Regional Needs Assessment.

Other Recommendation Topics (30 minutes)

Notes: Other recommendations that were discussed include:

- Full-day Preschool and child care options
- Spots are filled before children are waitlisted
- Adjust income eligibility guidelines
- Create a racially diverse community collaboration

Decisions made: Council Members have decided not to use these recommendations in the Regional Needs Assessment at this time as they were not able to come up with obtainable next steps to carry out the recommendations process.