



MEETING NOTES

Region 54 Family Council Meeting

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

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

Council Members absent: Jerri Whetstone, Jonathan Munoz, Mindy Dolan, and Tateana Bailey

Review Sections of Regional Scan (30 minutes)

Notes: The Regional Scan focus sections were presented to the Council via PowerPoint. Sections of the Scan are focused on past Council meeting topics: Demographics, ECEC Workforce, Parents/Family/Caregivers, Slot Gap, Community Collaborations, and Priority Populations. This information was reviewed by Council members to determine whether the Regional Team captured all the important topics/information.

Decisions made: Council Members agreed that all the important topics and information have been captured.

Review Region's Strengths (20 minutes)

Notes: Council Members discussed Regions 54's strengths including:

- ECEC Programs
 - Publicly Funded Programs
 - Licensed Child Care
- National Guard Grant
- Habitat for Humanity
- Other available resources
 - iGrow
 - Women's Care Clinic
- Some places offer ECEC Workforce Initiatives
 - Educational/Monetary Incentives



Decisions made: Council Members advised that the Regional Team include East Central Community Action and the many assistance programs, along with youth summer programs, they offer.

Review Region's Needs (20 minutes)

Notes: Council Members Discussed Region 54's needs including:

- More providers to accept state pay / Eligibility guidelines to be adjusted
- More ECEC staff and quality/properly trained staff/ diversity of teachers that represent our community
- Providers offering 2nd and 3rd shift child care
- More child care spots for children and to fill them before placing a child on a waitlist
- More public transportation available in rural areas
- More therapy services to be offered/ More ECEC programs in rural areas

Decisions made: Council Members mentioned how much of a struggle it is to find providers that will take children that are not potty-trained. It is also a struggle to find before and after care for their children since most children's school days end before their parent's or caregivers' workday ends.

Recommendations (10 minutes)

Next Steps: To prepare for the next meeting on Recommendations, a Google form will be sent out to Council Members asking what their recommendations are for each topic. This will not only prepare them for the next meeting but will also allow Council Members to input their voice and ideas into the Regional Scan. The forms ask to include their plan and what would be needed to carry out the said plan.