



MEETING NOTES

Region 19 Action Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: March 22, 2023, 4:00 to 6:00pm

4:00pm: Welcome & Updates (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Birth to Five Illinois is waiting on our deliverables for our next fiscal year.
 - General censuses as of now are to plan and implement recommendations from Regional Scan locally.
- In April our first meeting of the month will revolve around the strengths and needs of our Region. Our second meeting will be around recommendations.
- In May we will be sharing drafts of our Regional Scan to review as a council.
- Regional Scan will be public at the beginning of June.
- Our goal for the summer is to disseminate and present our Regional Scan to organizations, collaborations, etc.
- Geico Insurance: Robot Daycare commercial
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1DxvLd1e_0

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:10 pm: Parent, Caregiver, and Family Engagement (15 minutes)

Notes:

- Conversation around current parent engagement programs or strategies in DuPage County.
 - Parent Advisory Councils
 - Parent Workshops
 - With parent's input on the topics
 - Summer kick-off celebrations for families
 - Resources around summer camps and summer activities
 - Clothes donation
 - Many parent engagement/outreach programs already exist within ECEC programs because of the requirements.
 - Family outreach advocates
 - Strategies
 - Hiring staff who are native language speakers/ Interpreters



- More current parent engagement programs can be found in our Jamboard located in our Google Folder
- How do collaborations include parents in their decision-making?
 - Parent questionnaires
 - Family outreach advocates
 - Parents attending National Head Start Association Conference
 - Bringing feedback and information back to centers
 - Parent cafes and programs like “Abriendo Puertas” (opening doors).
 - Parent Policy Council
 - Parent Groups
 - Consistency between programs
- Discussion around additional supports needed to continue these programs and strategies.
 - Additional funds for food, childcare, transportation, and interpreters.
 - Blending funds to be able to use for food.
 - Strategies needed:
 - More open playgroups for all parents in the area
 - Programs that are less restrictive with their enrollment
 - Bigger age group needed, not just birth to 3.
- Interpreters vs. Translators
 - An interpreter translates orally, while a translator interprets written text.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:40pm: Parent, Caregiver, and Family Perspective Overview and Discussion (90 minutes)

Notes:

- Review of the Family Council Representation
- Review of Focus Groups and Interview Representation
- Who is missing?
 - DCFS
 - What supports would you mitigate before DCFS is involved?
 - Data provided by DCFS is limited.
 - Parents of multiples in DuPage County
 - DuPage Doubles Families of Multiples



- Members of the LGBTQ community
- Review of Focus Group Polls
- YouTube video of Native American life-changing moral story
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfKszs34LJ8>
 - The importance to explore the good and the bad when making change.
- Top barriers and challenges identified by Family Council and Interviews/Focus Groups.
 - Fear
 - Discriminatory Practices (Direct and indirect)
 - Cost
 - Lack of availability
 - Lack of Knowledge
- Reframing quotes into positive outcomes and or/ experiences.
 - Fear → Trust
 - Provide families with timely and accurate information.
 - Building positive relationships
 - Make connections
 - More open-based play strategies
 - Systematic changes
 - Not asking for race, ethnicity, income, etc.
 - Teaching parents how to advocate
 - Having higher standards
 - Better training
 - Desirable career path
 - Require competencies in addition to or instead of education requirements
 - Support and validation for families
 - Open to questions
 - Validating parents concerns
 - Inconsistencies with DCFS
 - Trust is needed from providers and families
 - Resource for families in a new country: Raising Young Children In a New Country: Supporting Early Learning and Healthy Development
 - Discrimination → Equity
 - Families with children that have medical complexities or disabilities are faced with many challenges in DuPage County.



- More funding is needed.
 - Additional training/ professional development for staff.
 - Having courageous conversations
 - Professional language supports.
 - Not someone from their community
 - Providing teachers and staff with a walk-through of students' lived experiences and testimonials.
 - Systematic changes: providing adequate training and compensation to staff that care for children with medical complexities or disabilities.
 - Having additional support in child care such as social workers, teacher assistants, etc.
- Cost → Affordability
 - Employees not wanting to accept a raise or a promotion due to Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) qualifications.
 - Policy recommendation: Extending \$1.00 copay to PFA and Head Start employees.
 - Offering a sliding fee scale for those that use CCAP.
 - Cost of living needs to be taken into consideration.
 - Individuals making the decision not to return to their job after covid-19.
- Availability → Capacity
 - Program offered by YWCA for individuals that are home to offer child care in their homes.
 - Evening and weekend care stipend for providers.
 - Recommended Payment Policies
 - Paid based on enrollment not attendance
 - Change being paid as a reimbursement
- Knowledge → Empowerment
 - Education around appropriate Individualized Educational Plan (IEP), and parent rights.
 - Well-developed transitions.
 - Parent groups
 - Building relationships
 - Building a resource not just for families but for providers as well.
 - Booklets with knowledge on child development and child care for moms of newborns.
 - Provide them to doctors/ hospitals to be distributed.



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:00pm: Next Steps (5 minutes)

Notes:

- Next meeting will be held on Friday, April 14th 11:00am to 1:00pm
 - Strengths and Needs
 - Hybrid Meeting