



MEETING NOTES

Region 12 Action Council Meeting **Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 3:30pm-5:00pm**

Staff present: Ann Oswalt, Donna Rardin, Sophie Kershaw-Patilla

Council Members present: Hope Dennis, Courtney Hatcher, Jamia Joyce, Beth Lindemann, Tina Staley, Arianna Walker, Amy Walters, Samantha Weidner, Liesl Wingert

Council Members absent: Jennifer Bales, Nicole Gardewine, Lauren McClain, Mary Roy, Alexis Schaich, Resa Shaner

3:30 Welcome & Introductions (10 minutes)

Notes:

- All participants provided introductions and responded to an icebreaker about which children's book they would live in if that were possible.
- Sophie shared the Facebook highlight on Action Council member Courtney Hatcher (www.facebook.com/groups/birthtofiveilregion12) and reminded Council members to share their details to post.
- Sophie mentioned that a few more photo releases are needed and shared the photo release link (www.birthtofiveil.com/photo).

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

3:40 Family Council Update (6 minutes)

Notes: Donna provided an update on the Family Council and community engagement initiatives.

- Region 12 is doing a final push for Family Council members. New members have been added, but representatives from Clay and Jasper Counties are still needed.
- Donna will be attending various events to meet families within their communities and hopes to recruit a few more members.
- During the last meeting, the Family Council discussed financial struggles (specifically for families whose earnings are just above the cut-off for assistance), the need for more regular screenings for Early Intervention, and



family engagement and communications (an example of using an app to notify parents of daily activities was shared).

- Ann and Donna also mentioned that some people may want to share their story either online or through an interview without serving on the Council.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Donna asked the Action Council members to continue making Family Council recommendations and also suggestions for families to be interviewed for their stories.

3:46 Focus Groups/Interviews Suggestions (14 minutes)

Notes: Following up from last month's discussion, Ann asked if Council members had any suggestions for individuals or groups to Interview or speak with during a Focus Group.

- Ann clarified that a Focus Group may be held during or following an existing event/meeting to make scheduling easier.
- The focus is to reach different populations than we have represented on our Councils.

Decisions made:

- Outreach suggestions include dad or grandparent groups, life centers, pregnancy centers, parenting groups/classes, faith-based groups, homeless (shelters), various support services/groups, etc.

Next Steps: Ann asked the Council to continue making recommendations and consider any meetings or events they attend as an opportunity to reach new voices.

4:00 Priority Populations (34 minutes)

Notes: Ann discussed what priority populations may look like within Region 12 and why it matters to reach and elevate the voices of these populations.

- Ann shared IECAM/Census data to support the discussion, including population, number of children under age six, percentages by ethnicity, and poverty rates.
- Council members discussed the differences within each county and why those variations exist.

Decisions made: Council members provided the following suggestions for priority populations to target:

- Non-English speakers
- Children with diagnosed disabilities
- Single parent/guardian families



- Families supported by WIC
- Families involved with DCFS
- LGBTQ+ families
- Transient/migrant worker families

Next Steps:

- Ann asked Council members to continue identifying priority populations that need to be included that are currently not represented in our data or Councils.

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- The next meeting will be virtual on Tuesday, January 3.
- The Council discussed the on-site location for the next quarter of meetings. Members also discussed the potential of making more meetings virtual due to spikes in illness or severe weather. Decisions will be made during the monthly virtual meetings.
- The Region 12 team will be live on WTYE 101.7 FM on Thursday, 12/8, at 10:00am. Listen on the radio or online at www.wtyefm.com.