



MEETING NOTES

Region 24 Family Council Meeting

Location: Hybrid/1304 Sunset Ave. Suite B, Yorkville, IL 60560

Date & Time: 3/21/23, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Council Members present: Omar Meza, Kennedy Sparks, Patti Blahetka, Rolando Paramo

Council Members Absent: Shannon Meyer, Michelle Strom, Nicole Soloff, Nikki Pehlke

6:00 pm-6:15 pm: Introductions/Ice Breaker (15 Minutes)

6:20 pm-6:50 pm: Family Council Follow-Up and Updates (15 Minutes)

Notes: Council members were updated on the Action Council's progress with the Regional Scan and the logistics of the next steps as we move into the implementation of the dissemination of the Regional Scan.

6:50 pm-7:50 pm: Parent Engagement and Workforce (1 hour)

Notes: Council discussed what family engagement looks like and should feel like to parents and school officials.

Below are questions asked during the discussion:

- Why would family engagement opportunities be harder in some areas of the region than in others?
- What sacrifices or decisions has your family made surrounding child care?
- Has anything in particular been helpful in making Early Childhood Education and Care work for your family? What is working? What is not working?
- What are some solutions for recruiting and retaining Early Childhood Teachers?
- Is anyone familiar with CCAP (Child Care Assistance Program)? If so, can you share?
- What are some stereotypes about providers who accept CCAP?

Below are some highlights from this discussion:

- Families need child care programs that have flexible or extended hours of operation.
- The process for the child care assistance program needs to be timelier, as there have been long wait times to receive approval or denial letters disrupting families' work schedules and extending financial strain.

- The stereotype that exists currently within the Region is anyone who uses any subsidized program is frowned upon for needing assistance, which could be the reason for the lack of services being utilized in the community.

7:50 pm- 8:00 pm: Family Council Q & A (10 minutes)

Next Meeting: Hybrid

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Time: 6:00 pm -8:00 pm