



MEETING NOTES

Region 19 Family Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

6:00pm: Welcome & Introductions of New Attendee Family Council Members (15 minutes)

Notes:

- Introductions of new members and shared experiences.
- Overview of vision/value word wall, Family Council community agreement, and review of courageous conversation agreement.

Decisions made:

- No additional words or agreements added to our word wall or Family Council community agreement at this time.

Next Steps: N/A

6:15pm: Let's Take a Poll (20 min)

Notes:

- Family Council members were asked to take a poll with 9 questions regarding their experiences in Early Childhood Education and Care.
- Discussion around family and/or family friends being the caregivers for their children and the pros and cons this can have.
 - Difficulty in finding a child care center that families are comfortable with.
 - Cost difference between centers and home child care.
 - Quality of care.
- Discussion around the possibility of having many child care centers available in the area but not being able to qualify for services such as CCAP and not being able to financially afford to pay out of pocket.
 - Parents making the choice of working or staying at home.
 - Centers not having enough slots for all siblings.
- Discussion around what is missing in your child's early childhood program and/or preschool.
 - Early childhood programs or school districts are limited to at-risk children or students that qualify for services in school. Families



expressed this becomes difficult and unfair to have only one child in school and having siblings in two different programs/locations.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:35pm: Review of Family Council Community Agreement –DuPage County Early Childhood Education and Care Landscape Overview (15 min)

Notes:

- Overview of 2020 data of Head Start, Preschool for All, License- exempt Child Care Centers, Licensed Child Care Centers and Family Child Care home locations with children under 200% FPL of children ages 0-5 in DuPage County.
- Overview of Locations of Child Care Homes and Centers in DuPage County.
- Early Childhood Funding Stream overview.
- Child Care Capacity in DuPage County graph, report from 2020.
- Risk and reach report regarding kindergarten readiness.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:50pm: DuPage County Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Landscape Discussion (50 min)

Notes:

- Discussion around what stands out to Family Council members about the ECEC landscape for DuPage County.
 - Decline in the number of child care centers even before the pandemic.
 - Desert pockets of child care centers in the West Chicago and Winfield area.
- Discussion around Family Council members' experiences with classroom teachers and administrators. Negative and positive experiences shared.
- Thoughts around what voices haven't been heard from in the data representation so far.
- Early Childhood funding stream explanation presented by Valerie Varju, Regional Council Manager.
- Input on additional data that was not presented during the meeting that would be helpful to have.



- Decisions made: N/A
Next Steps: N/A

7:40pm: Questions? (10 minutes)

Notes:

- No questions from Family Council members.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- If you know of someone in your network with a story that wants to be shared, those stories can be shared either in a Family Council meeting, in a focus group/ interview, or in an email. Please encourage them to share their story so that we encompass a wider range of challenges and or barriers for our regional scan.
- Email has been sent to all Family Council members regarding stipends. We ask members to please let Claudia know if members want to pick up their stipend in our Glen Ellyn office or mailed to their homes.
 - Stipends are \$125, given quarterly to each member.
- Reminder to members that if they miss a meeting, we can always revisit any questions or talking points they want to discuss. Additionally, we also have our Google folder with information from each meeting and Google forms where input is always appreciated.
- Translation services are always available if any Family Council member may need them. Please reach out to any team member for this service.

Follow- up/Next steps:

- Next meeting: January 24th, 2023, 6:00pm to 8:00pm via Zoom.
- We are asking Family Council members to reflect on their own personal experiences (challenges/barriers) and bring those to our next meeting. Along with any ideas Family Council members have to increase access for all or ways to advocate for families who are not aware of the services offered.