



MEETING NOTES

Region 19 Family Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

6:00pm: Welcome & Introductions of New Family Council Members, Review of Family Council Community Agreement (20 minutes)

Notes:

- Introduction of new member and her shared experiences.
- Overview of vision/value word wall, Family Council community agreement, and review of courageous conversation agreement.
 - If any Family Council member wants to add to the Family Council community agreement, please reach out to Claudia.
- Reminder that any Family Council member can share their story on our website. These stories are highlighted on the Birth to Five Illinois Newsletter and website.
 - Family stories are found on our website. Submissions are also accepted via the website. <https://www.birthtofiveil.com/family-stories>

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:20pm: Ice Breaker (17 minutes)

Notes:

- Family Council members were divided into two groups to participate in Disney Movies Pictionary and share more about themselves.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:37pm: DuPage County Early Childhood Education and Care Landscape-A Deeper Discussion (58 minutes)

Notes:

- Overview of poll results regarding their experiences in Early Childhood Education and Care from the previous meeting.
- Discussion regarding the mistrust and fear with child care.



- Family Council member making the decision to work at a preschool and homeschool their children under the age of five because there is a misrepresentation of ethnicities in the staff. The fear that their children are going to be presented with biases and experience racism because there is no diversity present.
- Conversation around the expectation of private child care vs a preschool for all and the comments that are made by staff in these facilities towards minority families.
 - Quality care is expected but it is often not received.
 - Discrimination against minority families. Minorities are seen as the ones having a problem.
 - Cultural norms not being taken into account.
- Discussion around why Family Council members did or did not choose to put their children in childcare or preschool.
 - Cultural differences
 - The feeling that children may not be able to defend themselves. There needs to be a high level of trust between the child and the teacher/provider.
- Conversation regarding the barriers and or challenges encountered when looking for child care services. In addition to how overwhelming the process can be, mostly for first-time parents that do not have a background in early childhood education.
- Discussion around what changes need to be made in school districts.
 - Districts need bilingual staff and need to be more open-minded.
 - Parents need to be given the space to voice concerns without having the fear that staff is going to take it out on the kids or be seen as the parent that is always complaining.
- Discussion around medical complexities, and what barriers or experiences were encountered.
 - Many child care centers do not accept children with medical complexities.
 - DCFS stating they pay for child care and a home nurse but fail to share that there is a shortage of nurses and child care providers that accept the DCFS stipend.



- Many centers require children to be potty trained, but they do not consider medical complexities that can conflict with potty training.
- Lack of awareness in the staff and community overall regarding other cultures.
- Conversation around the strengths in the community and or positive notes happening in children's lives.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

7:35pm: Questions (10 minutes)

Notes:

- No questions asked from Family Council Members.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- We have started recruiting for Focus Groups and Interviews, if anyone knows of someone that might be interested in participating, they can fill out the consent form online or reach out to Claudia.
 - <https://www.birthtofiveil.com/consent>
 - Clanconi@birthtofiveil.com
- Next meeting: February 7, 2023 6:00pm to 8:00pm via Zoom.