



2nd Meeting Notes

Region 4 Family Council Meeting

Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqd-6upjke9UnMJTF_jEDtXm2SFXhGHNK

Meeting ID: 86707682591

Passcode: 797590

Date & Time: Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 6pm-8pm

Attendees: Kelly McNeal, Livia Bane, Lisa Coen, Trisha Anderson, Jennifer Simms, Megan Schulz, Rebecca Durick, Teresa Fillers, Meagan Kerr, Amber, Ursula Sobotka, Jess Olmo, Catherine Richards

- I. **Welcome & Introductions** (10 min) Facilitator(s): Livia Bane, Regional Council Manager and Kelly McNeal, Family & Community Engagement Specialist
- II. **Ice Breaker & Introductions of Family Council Members** (20 min)
Facilitator(s): Kelly McNeal, Family & Community Engagement Specialist
 - Christmas shopping status.
 - Birth to Five Illinois overview video (Action Councils)
 - Vision/Mission of Birth to Five Illinois

- III. **Review Community Agreement & Roles/Responsibilities of Family Council Members** (15 min) Facilitator(s): Kelly McNeal, Family & Community Engagement Specialist

Review Community Agreement

Regional landscape discussion

- Demographic
- Why is this important?
- What programs are offered?
 - Baby chat programs



- Early intervention programs
- Birth to 3 (Early Headstart)
- Igrow
- La Vaz Latina
- Eats and Speaks (Byron)

Resource barriers?

- Transportation
- Work during the day
- Insurance Coverage
- Location
- District does not have offerings.
- Preschool for All (state funded) - Could not attend Harlem preschool because child tested out (only 360 seats offered) so they pay for child to go to private preschool. *Not really "preschool for all."
- Preschool for All did not have transportation offering
- Cost and times are not convenient
- Limited full day options
- Child had to stay in daycare due to barriers and was then behind in kindergarten.
- Grants require you meet certain criteria due to max capacity.
- Lack of awareness about resources that exists.
- Programs that require referrals.
- Long waitlists for quality programs and supports.
- Each resource has different eligibility requirements based off their funding source and what problem they are trying to solve.
- Frustrating to hear about a great program but cannot qualify for it.
- Resources waiting until children are too far behind before they qualify for services.
- Birth to 3 resources would be best.
- Need to explain to parents how to navigate the system.
- Winnebago and Boone rural county residents do not have same access to care as those in the city.
- Daycare workers are migrating to the school system, and they are losing workers in the daycare settings.



- Language (large Spanish populations)
- Lack of funding.
- DCFS requirements for those wanting to provide daycare.
- Spaces
- Supplies/Materials/Workers
- Young parents. Pregnant teens a missed population.
- Minors cannot qualify for services because they are under the care of their parents.

Kelly thanks parents for their contributions and reiterates this is what we need to hear and will be sharing with the Action councils. These issues are affecting parents and caregivers in all regions.

Parents voiced desire to have had a list of resources available to them when they first give birth. Wished pediatricians and daycare providers had a list of resources available that they would have provide to new parents.

- Week of the Young Child a good resource.
- YWCA does share resources.
- Ambers dr. and preschool does offer referrals; however, her son wasn't "far enough" behind to qualify for speech therapy.

How are parents deciding which providers to utilize?

- Cost
- Times Available (Weekend care offered, evening hours)
- Recommendations from other parents.
- Trainings for workers (CPR certified)
- Would like cameras utilized.
- Safety of children.
- License status.
- YWCA registry.
- Able to work hybrid from home and utilize parent for parttime childcare.
- Nurses and first responders and individuals on call work odd hours.
- Quality of care can go down if workers are not qualified or if there is a staff shortage.



Where and when would be a good idea for parents to be made aware of resources?

- Mother/baby units at the hospital (Illinois basics bags)
- 1 year, 18 mo. and annual checkups.
- Daycare, WIC office, Link offices.
- Welcome bags are no longer offered... Social workers at hospital should be utilized better in the hospitals to provide information.
- School District headquarters.
- Doula programs
- DCFS offices
- Red binder the hospitals give are overwhelming and often get lost in the shuffle of newborn care.

How to reach those who are isolated or rural areas?

- Social Media Outlets (Stateline Kids)
- Libraries
- Hospital, midwife, pregnant women community groups. Do they exist? Lamaze?
- Brochures, flyers need to be utilized again (do not depend on online resources as many do not have access to that).
- Send flyers home from the school.
- Get creative with virtual options.

IV. **Break** (5 min)

V. **Early Childhood Education and Care Programs** (30 min) Facilitator(s):
Kelly McNeal, Family & Community Engagement Specialist

Time that it takes for early intervention.

- Wait times are quite long.
- Quality of interventions affected by staffing, funding issues.
- Difficult to find a medical provider due to covid strain.
- Waitlist for daycare up to a year.
- Far west Rockford has zero resources close to home. Rockford Memorial is basically closed.



- Vicious cycle of workers quitting during covid to provide daycare for their own children because daycare was not available. Women have still not returned to the workforce fulltime due to lack of childcare, early childhood programming.
- Companies need to become more flexible in terms of childcare issues. Shift mindsets regarding parents of young children. Consideration of remote work.

What supports would help while you are waiting for support and resource?

- Human connection to ensure you are on the waitlist and we are trying to resolve the issue.
- Online support apps and information.
- Alternatives to intervention (groups that meet once a week or month?)
- Relearning skills to get out and about in public with kids.
- Parent support groups?

Transportation time or distance to another school?

- Parents want the opportunity to go to another school that has a resource their child needs, but closer is preferable.
- Resources to engage in alternative school settings (forest school) if available and have the means and flexibility is a privilege many don't have.
- Daycare options that allow "pay as needed" instead of a parttime rate or fulltime rate.
- Families moving to another area as costs are too high or they are being evicted.

- VI. **Discuss Regional Community Landscape** (30 min) Facilitator(s): Kelly McNeal, Family & Community Engagement Specialist
- VII. **Training Support for the Family Council** (10 min) Facilitator(s): Kelly McNeal, Family & Community Engagement Specialist

Kelly thanks parents for their input and reinforces that this is their time to share experiences and it is their meeting. We are working in tandem with the Action and Family councils. More details to be discussed and great feedback to come.



Trainings available for Family Council parents:

<https://www.partnerplanact.org/collaboration-supports/on-demand-learning>

Livia requests attendees consider sitting on the Action Council as parents/caregivers. Two families are needed to join the Action Council or tap into their networks and let us know if they know anyone who may be interested. Action Council meets on the 3rd Weds. of each month from Noon-2pm. We are collecting your voice and opinions regardless of which council you are on. Reach out to Kelly or Livia if interested.

Next Meeting:

Date: 1.10.2022

Time: 6pm

Location: Via Zoom