



MEETING NOTES

Region 19 Family Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 6:00-8:00 pm

6:00pm: Welcome & Introductions of New Family Council Members, Review of Family Council Community Agreement (15 minutes)

Notes:

- Introductions of new members and their 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.
 - Reach out to Claudia if new words or agreements would like to be added.

Next Steps: N/A

6:15 pm: Ice Breaker (18 min)

Notes:

- Family Council members went into breakout rooms to participate in a small group activity.
 - Five things your group has in common.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:33pm: DuPage County Slot Gap Data and Discussion (60 min)

Notes:

- Overview of Slot Gap definition in Early Childhood Education and Care.
- Slot Gap data for DuPage County shared and reviewed.
- Conversation regarding the Slot Gap in DuPage County and the comparison to neighboring Counties.
 - Infant and toddlers are the ones that are mostly affected by the Slot Gap.
- Conversation regarding the impact Covid-19 had on the ability to gather accurate data and the negative impact it had on child care centers.



- Overview of Illinois publicly funded early childhood programs and the comparison with child care.
 - Child care: the main purpose is to care for children while parents are working. Mainly are private pay.
 - Publicly funded: usually only available for children that are at risk.
 - Functions are different but they serve the same purpose.
- Conversation around why Preschool for All might have a higher retention rate in comparison to other publicly funded programs.
- Family Council members shared their stories and their experience with Slot Gap.
 - Affordability is a huge barrier, mostly when you have more than one child.
 - There is a huge barrier when it comes to finding child care in the evening, specifically after 7:00pm.
 - Many Family Council members expressed that they had to leave their job due to barriers such as affordability, transportation or overall, not finding child care that fit their needs.
 - Family Council member shared her experience with early intervention (EI) services.
 - Services were abruptly stopped when her child turned 3 years. She was put on a long waitlist for her child to enroll in Preschool.
- Discussion regarding the data being a good representation of what one has heard from the community.
 - Curiosity around the cost of child care in DuPage if families are not receiving assistance.
 - Child care can be a huge burden when paying for it, even when there are two parents working.
 - Childcare can be more than rent for some families.
 - The need to vastly improve communication and provide resources.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

7:35 pm: Questions (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Final notes



- Reminder to Family Council members if at any point there are additional comments regarding the data reviewed, please reach out to Claudia, or bring it up at the beginning of the next council meeting.
- We are actively recruiting for focus groups. If you know of someone who would be interested in sharing their story please encourage them to fill out our consent form online.
 - <https://www.birthtofiveil.com/consent>
- Next round of stipends will be sent out at the end of this month.
 - If you would like to arrange a time to pick up in person, please reach out to a Region 19 team member.
 - Stipends are \$125, given quarterly to each member.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- Next Meeting: February 28, 2023, from 6:00-8:00 pm.
 - Meeting will be hybrid.
 - 800 Roosevelt Road, Building A, Glen Ellyn/Zoom