

Meeting Notes

Region 44 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: 2/21/23 5:00-7:00pm

Council members present: Brittany Henricks, Shannon Lampe, Jamie Herron, Thalia Garcia

Council members absent: Alan Diaz and Ann Lindstrom

Guest Presenters: Jim Menzer & Matt Tabar with Early Childhood Community Coalition of Lake County and Regional Liaisons for McKinney-Vento; Trish Rooney with SPARK, Vice President of Programs

5:00 Welcome, Ice Breaker & Review of Community Expectations (10 minutes)

Notes: Reviewed community expectations and answered the ice breaker question "What's your favorite breakfast food."

Decisions: All members in attendance agreed to expectations and participated in ice breaker activity.

Next Steps: N/A

5:10 ECEC Programs & Collaborations (35 minutes)

Notes: First presenter was Trish Rooney with SPARK. She presented to us about SPARK (Strong, Prepared and Ready for Kindergarten). She informed the council she is part of the collaboration in Kane County and it was started ten years ago after hearing what challenges providers and families met with early childhood. She talked about Early Childhood Funding Commission and the setup of the collaboration. She is an advocate for providers delivering the services to local families. SPARK leverages resources, build capacity and work effectively to achieve positive outcomes. Their work is guided by lived experiences, diverse perspectives and information from families and providers.

Next Presenters were Matt Tabar and Jim Menzer who are both with the Early Childhood Community Coalition of Lake County and Regional Liaisons for McKinney-Vento. They informed the council that the coalition began in the mid 1980s in order for directors to connect and discuss the needs of children. There are about 600 directors of child care agencies. These agencies are surveyed every year. The initiatives were to help kids who need additional help and have difficulty connecting to the services

available. They are working on making connections with hospitals and pediatricians in the county for the purpose of being able to provide more resources to families. The goal is to build the relationship early on between families and school districts and other resources needed. They advocate for directors, parents, and children involved in day care.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: Links to websites of the presenters will be emailed to the council members.

5:45 ECEC Programs Reviewed (5 minutes)

Notes: We recapped the Early Childhood Education and Care document that was discussed at the last meeting. We reviewed the document showing the various types of ECEC programs and asked the council if they had any questions. No further questions were asked.

5:50 Break

6:00 ECEC (40 minutes)

Notes Continued:

The following questions were discussed, and all ideas were typed into a community Jamboard.

1. What is the region's community collaboration landscape?
2. If there is no local collaboration: Are there areas that might be ready for a local collaboration? If so, what supports might they need to begin?
3. Who are some key stakeholders in our region that could form a collaboration?
4. What kind of work can a collaboration do or support in this region?

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: Council members may view and add to the Jamboard if they desire.

6:40 Check-Out and Share-Out (10 minutes)

Notes: Saturday 2/25/23 Options and Advocacy for McHenry County is hosting a Caregiver Connections Conference. It will be held at First Church in Crystal Lake from 8:30am-4:00pm. Registration is required. Birth to Five Illinois Region 44 staff will be at this event as well as the McHenry County Second Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 25th.

Announcement: Our regions' new Regional Council Manager will start on Monday, February 27th.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: A link to the conference will be emailed to all the council members.

Upcoming Meetings:

3/7/23 5:00-7:00pm; Hybrid