

Meeting Notes

Region 44 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: 3/21/23 5:00-7:00pm

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

Council members absent Alan Diaz & Ann Lindstrom

5:00 Welcome, Introductions, Ice Breaker & Review of Community Expectations (15 minutes)

Notes:

Decisions: A Everyone present participated in the ice breaker “What is your favorite childhood memory? Reviewed Community Expectations with council members present. No changes currently.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

5:15 ECEC Workforce (15 minutes)

Notes: Reviewed what was discussed at last meeting. Guest speaker Jamee Potash; Assistant Director of Friendship House/Action Council member. She spoke about her experiences and background in ECEC. Took another look at the workforce data to show council members who couldn't attend last meeting. Reviewed Director demographics, Licensed Center Positions, and Licensed Family Child Care (FCC) Positions.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

5:30 Family Voice (30 minutes)

Notes: Showed council members the data collected at the kick off event in 2022 regarding needs in the county. Council agrees the statements from the kick off event but wanted to add the bilingual needs of the children and families in the county. We showed council members the link to Family Stories on Birth to Five Illinois website. Invited members to share their stories on this website. Shared the story about “More Than a Mortgage.” The child care bill cost more than twice the mortgage for this particular family. The council viewed the Birth to Five Illinois map of the different regions in the state and how they are broken down. Also reviewed our Region 44 (McHenry County) web page and showed the council how the website is set up. The

council spent a little time looking at the IECAM web page and how to navigate the site. Opened discussion up for council to share any experiences with any programs they have used in the county.

One member shared her experience moving here from out of state and how the evaluations had to be repeated in this county and results from out of state did not transfer. This family has had good experiences with early intervention for their first child. The second child was on a waitlist for a speech therapist due to not enough providers. These experiences for the children has helped with school transition.

Another member shared one child attends preschool three days a week and then attend daycare for the other portion of the day. The fees would have doubled so they chose to adjust work schedules instead. This family has been comparing day care facilities vs preschool plus day care.

An additional member commented that the Birth to Three program was an awesome experience for her child. During the summer they offered play groups at different playgrounds.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: Requested the council members to share the Facebook page site so we can have more people stand behind us and help improve the Early Childhood Education and Care system in the county.

6:00 Break

6:05 ECEC Family Voice (30 minutes)

Notes: Below questions were discussed and comments were added to the community Jamboard.

1. What are some parent experiences with access to ECEC in the region?
2. Why is it important to include this information in the Scan?
3. Has anything in particular been helpful in making ECEC work for your family?
4. What sacrifices or decisions has your family made surrounding these issues?

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:35 Check-Out and Share-Out (10 minutes)

Notes: Requested council members to complete a survey and to pass it along to three other people to help us collect more data. The survey is for families who have child(ren) under the age of eight or someone working in the early childhood education care system.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: Click on link provided in the agenda to complete the survey.

Upcoming Meetings:

4/4/23 5:00-7:00pm; Hybrid