



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 44 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: 4/4/2023, 5:00-7:00pm

**Council Members present: Jamie Herron, Thalia Ruiz-Garcia, Shannon Lampe, Ann Lindstrom**

**Council Members absent: Alan Diaz, Brittany Henricks**

#### **5:00pm Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)**

Notes: Members present participated in an ice breaker of What would you tell a new Parent?

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **5:10pm Family Voice Review (15 minutes)**

Notes: Council reviewed what was discussed at the last meeting. This included the Family Stories page on the website, how to navigate the Region 44 page on the Birth to Five Illinois Website, reviewed Jamboard questions from last meeting two weeks ago. Reminder of survey homework to pass on to people.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **5:25pm Parent Engagement vs. Parent Involvement (30 minutes)**

Notes: Regional Council Manager showed Birth to Five Illinois PowerPoint slides explaining difference between parent engagement vs involvement. Involvement is a more hierarchal relationship and engagement is a partnership. Regional Manager showed core beliefs for parent engagement. This includes family as the experts, varied norms, relationship building, eliminating barriers, collective responsibility, resources, partners, prioritized populations, and parent leadership. We also shared with the council the best practices for parent engagement including shared labor, shared power, honor parent voice and experience, training, and technical support, provide



language supports, and no acronyms just to name a few. The council discussed barriers for programs that are doing more family activities vs. family engagement. The council watched video on early childhood education and family engagement.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

### **5:55pm Break**

### **6:00pm Family Voice/Parent Engagement Questions to Consider (30 mins)**

Notes: Council reviewed the questions below and added responses to the Jamboard.

1. What opportunities are/were offered to you to be engaged in your child's program or service? Were these opportunities valuable to you as a parent or caregiver?
2. Does the program or service value your input and ideas? How can you tell?
3. What are some barriers you encounter when getting involved with an early childhood program or service?
4. Are there any changes you would suggest to make it easier to join or be involved?

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

### **6:30pm Check-Out and Share-Out (5 minutes)**

Notes: This week was the Week of the Young Child. We are sharing information on our Facebook page so be on the lookout. We reviewed upcoming meetings and asked the council to save the date for the Family Council and Action Council gathering on May 31, 2023, from 5:00-7:00pm. More details to come.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**Next meeting: 4/18/23, Hybrid**