

## Notes

### **Region 32 Family Council Meeting**

**Location:** KCC, North Extension Building, 450 N. Kinzie, Bradley, IL

**Date & Time:** Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:00-7:45pm

**Members Present:** Teage Drinnon, Brenda Mohr, Kasira Potts, Sarah Gowler, Emily Rodriguez, Natasha Ashford, Cheme Williams, Laura Ziegler, Ali Denault, Alison Chandler, Coen Clark, Jazmine Mancha, and Ami Kring

**Members Absent:** Amber Bramer, DeAnna Booker, Ashley Chappell, Danielle Norton

**6:05: Permission to Record, Welcome & Introductions**

- Permission granted. Kennilyn distributed stipend checks and explained the payment process being quarterly.
- Google folder access was explained with our Family Council documents.
- Members shared a highlight of their week as an icebreaker.

**6:15: Community Agreements Review**

- Members added an agreement for Family Council to have confidentiality with other members, as honest conversations will be taking place. Council approved the addition to their Community Agreement.

**6:20: Brief Review of Birth to Five Illinois Councils & Goals**

- Kennilyn explained Birth to Five Illinois' goal and mission.
- The website was shown with members' names and cities.
- Council watched the Birth to Five Illinois introductory video.
- Kennilyn explained the current goal of finding focus group participants for our regional scan narrative.

**6:28: Regional Scan Topic #1- Community Demographics Landscape**

- Members were asked to explain their community to someone who has never visited there as well as stereotypes (good and bad) of their community. Council discussed the members' answers. Members were then asked why it is important to include it in the regional scan. See attached chart.
  - Momence: "Tight-knit, diverse community that has basically 0 childcare options and an underfunded school system but a lot of heart." Seen as poor and farm fields.

- Manteno: “Like a Hallmark movie because it is a very community-driven location to live.” Excellent schools. “Hard to infiltrate the social scene and circles as an outsider.” Great parks and activities for little kids. “Really nothing for teens to do if not sport related.” Seen as wealthy and “uppity.”
- Gilman: Very rural. Low to middle class, minimal job opportunities, limited services, and economic growth. “Many travel to Champaign or Kankakee to receive services.” Not diverse. .”
- Clifton: Excellent schools, two public libraries, and a public swimming pool and parks. “The community is very close-knit and supportive of all the children and the whole town has an amazing spirit.” A lot of senior citizens but not a lot to engage. Very little diversity.
- St. Anne/Aroma Park: Lower income, good mix of elderly and young people, diverse. In public schools mostly African American and Hispanic. “The town is made brighter because of Olivet Nazarene University students and staff that try to pour into the community.”
- Bourbonnais: Good place to raise children, has good neighborhoods and a feeling of community. Nice schools- grade and middle schools. Strong educators but the behavior is an issue. Good variety of community events. A lot of opportunity for involvement. Many young families. “Racist.” “Growing city because of the opportunity.” “Very busy area in the middle of the country.” Many churches. “Seen as the “high class” of the tri-city area.”
- Kankakee: “Limited availability with quality childcare (that has open availability), limited quality therapy based on insurance, and limited extracurricular activities. However, there is room for growth.” Moor poor low-income families, a lot of seniors, minority mix, rural and city mix. “Kankakee is like the black sheep of Kankakee Co. K3 is overlooked for many new opportunities.” “Very difficult to grow relationships with other ethnicities because of fear, hatred, etc. have caused huge caution amongst many. Reverse racism?” Lack of social activities. The school system is failing. “Idol minds is the devil’s playground, lack of things to do.”
- Kennilyn shared local race/ethnicity, income, and population data of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties compared to the State of Illinois.
- The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) was defined, and a video was shown explaining how FPL is used for services. Council then compared the FPL of the region to the State and discussed it.
  - Members shared emotion while discussing FPL. A lot of anger and frustration. “Unfair as a single parent, with three daughters and I don’t qualify for services.” “Not fair.” “Makes me mad.”

**7:35: Foundational Training Overview for the Family Council**

- Kennilyn informed the Council of the training available, not required, but available for free through Partner Plan Act.

**7:37: Q & A**

- Kennilyn asked the Council to preview the slot gap questions from the regional scan before the next meeting to save time.
- Informed the Council of the “Parking Lot” in Google Drive where they can ask/list ongoing questions or concerns.

**7:40: Next Meeting Date/Location**

Date: February 13, 2023

Time: 6:00-7:45pm

Location: KCC North Extension Bldg. & Virtual

**7:42: Adjourn**