



MEETING NOTES

Region 54 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday January 12, 2023 6:00 PM

Council Members present: Xandra Anderson, Ariana Lawless, Ashley Omlor, Brittany Coleman, Diamond Moss, Haley Rhoades, Jennalynn Wright, Jenn Wright, Kari Hastings, Kourtney Manno, Kristina Dreher, Mindy Dolan, Tateana Baily

Council Members absent: Arian Dodge, Jerri Whetstone, Jonathan Munoz

Welcome and Icebreaker (15 minutes)

Notes: With new members on the council meeting, members took a moment to reintroduce themselves and tell what their favorite thing about break was. This meeting was virtual; Caylynne made sure that everybody had the chance to speak on Zoom.

Discuss Local Community Collaborations (65 minutes)

Notes: To begin the presentation there was a recap on why Birth to Five Illinois was gathering data, and what our goal was to use it for. Caylynne took this opportunity to introduce a guest speaker – Niah Hamilton with iGrow, she spoke about what their collaborations were about and what type of programs they offer. After, Caylynne went over the power point slides that was provided by LIC.

Decisions made: Caylynne is going to reach out to the Danville Public Library to ask about holding focus group meetings with targeted audiences including but are not limited to: Fathers, Hispanics, Foster Parents, Young Parents (18 and older), and Faith community.

Next Steps: Tammy is sending out a Google Form Survey for an after meeting follow up (this is referred to in next section). This gives the council members the opportunity to think about what was discussed at the meeting and put together their own thoughts. Along with the survey, the Birth to Five Illinois team will be reaching out to begin the focus group process. We will be reaching out to decided targeted audience, research places to hold focus group meetings.



Review and Recap (30 minutes)

Notes: Tammy had sent out a Google Form with the questions talked about in the meeting. Council members responded with the following:

1. What organizations and/or initiatives are currently in place in our region to support families as they prepare their children to thrive in kindergarten?
 - iGrow
 - Head Start
 - Dolly Parton Imagination Library - United Way of Danville Area Program
 - WIC education
 - Women's Care Clinic
 - Love INC
 - Home visiting agencies

2. Based on your knowledge and experience, are there areas of the region and/or families that are not being effectively served by ECEC programs or services? Why do you think these areas/families are not effectively served?
 - Rural towns (Bismarck, Fairmont) do not have access to as many services. I feel they don't have as many options due to the distance away from Danville as Danville serves more people. I also feel transportation and staffing is an issue.
 - Middle class families who make too much for help but not enough to pay \$700 plus a month in childcare because we don't qualify for any programs.

3. If areas of the region/families are not effectively served, would establishing an ECEC community collaboration be a reasonable first step in serving children and families? Why or why not?
 - I think it would be. It shows initiative that has been lacking to this region and families.
 - I feel having ECEC could be a new start for our region to look at how we can service our community better. It benefits the entire region where it's accessible to everyone there would be more interest.



4. If establishing an ECEC community collaboration would help address the lack of ECEC programs and services, what support might be needed to get it going?

- School support, community support
- Coordinated system of referring and tracking

5. If establishing an ECEC community collaboration is not the first step, what needs to happen first?

- Education of the medical community to get referrals moving.
- I think the focus group is a good first step on at least finding people who want to make a difference and are willing to help and support it along the way.

6. What are the benefits of establishing/not establishing a community collaboration?

- If we don't have a community collaboration it doesn't allow for our families to thrive and it does a complete disservice for the families in our region
- It's a way to get an inside perspective from people experiencing the disconnect in programming options

7. What questions remain unanswered with respect to community collaborations that we might explore via interviews and focus groups?

- What can we do to help get the funding for it and how can we help get organizations involved to help and bring more people together.

Next Steps: Responses from Google Survey will be used to complete the Regional Scan Document the Birth to Five Illinois team is putting together.