



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 1BB Family Council Meeting #2

**Location: Virtual**

**Date & Time: Tuesday 1/24/2023 5:00-7:00pm**

**Members Present:** Azucena Galvez (Oak Park), Edith Vargas (Westchester), Jukselin Nuñez (Northlake), Juana Avila (Cicero),

**Members Absent:** Susan Farnum (Forest Park), Mario Porras (Franklin Park), Cindy Albor (Stickney)

#### 5:00 Welcome

Notes:

-The meeting was held in Spanish. All participants present were bi-lingual in Spanish.

-Icebreaker – “Haircut story”

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### 5:10 Demographic Presentation / Discussion

Notes:

- The Council discussed what demographics are and brainstormed some examples.
- The Council identified and shared strengths in their respective communities.
  - Northlake reported strong special education services at their school district.
  - Cicero shared being able to communicate in their native language and pharmacies in the area.
  - Oak Park reported diversity and inclusion.
  - Berwyn, Cicero, and North Riverside have an abundance of shops in the community.
  - Westchester reported it is a quiet neighborhood that is still growing.
- The Council identified and shared needs in their respective communities.
  - Not a lot of specialized services or long waitlists for services. Limited capacities.
  - Therapies in the school district are very limited in time and many parents do not know how to navigate the system and advocate for a revision of service plans.



-Therapy services are not offered in the family language (for example, in Spanish).

Limited bilingual therapists.

- The council discussed income demographics. Insights on this topic included:
  - There are always more resources in the areas of higher income.
  - Comparison discussion between State poverty levels and poverty levels for Region 1BB and the effect of income level variations on services for children and families.

\* The Council discussed Race/Ethnicity demographics

-Discussion on the diversity in the Region. A member shared she was surprised to see the top three demographic groups. Another member shared she was not surprised by the data but does wonder why if this data exists and is public, services are still not distributed equitably?

\* The Council discussed why demographic information is important to include in the Regional Scan. Members' feedback consisted of: Being important to ensure that resources are distributed equally and equitably across the communities. Importance to share with all stakeholders and communities to disperse information. Advocate for action!

\* The Council reported the following about what stereotypes exist and what is overlooked in their communities:

- Because we live in a majority (white suburb) there are not many resources such as Early Head Start/ Head Start.

-Racism

-Classism

-Although there is diversity, there is also segregation.

\* The Council contributed to the Parking Lot. Ideas shared include:

- "I wish what resources were available in other suburbs, not just Chicago since from experience I know there are a lot of resources in Chicago".

- "More attention to education in particular special education."

- "Learn about all the resources available in the Region and not just my community."

Decisions Made:

Next Steps: Next Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7pm through Zoom.

**7:00 Meeting Adjourned**