



MEETING NOTES

Region 1BB Family Council Meeting #3

Location: Virtual

Date & Time: Tuesday 2/7/2023 5:00-7:00pm

Members Present: Azucena Galvez (Oak Park), Edith Vargas (Westchester), Jukselin Nuñez (Northlake), Juana Avila (Cicero), Cindy Albor (Stickney).

Members Absent: Melina Avila (Melrose Park)

5:00 Welcome

Notes:

- The meeting was held in Spanish. All participants present were bi-lingual in Spanish or only Spanish speaking.
- Icebreaker – “Early Childhood Superpower”.
- Agenda, Google Drive, and Community Agreements were reviewed.
- Action Council Updates were shared: How to access the 1BB webpage was reviewed as well as who the Action Council members are and how to access the minutes from previous Action Council meetings.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

5:10 Early Childhood Education and Care Presentation / Discussion

Notes:

- Review of which programs exist and who they serve.
- Review of the Early Childhood Education and Care Landscape in region 1BB.
 - The council was presented with a map of the locations of programs in our region. Feedback on the current landscape included:
 - *It looks accurate to members in the Northlake area, as they do not have many programs there.
 - *There is a high concentration of programs in the areas of Oak Park, Berwyn, North Riverside, River Forest, and Forest Park, which supports the previous input of areas with higher incomes have more access to programs.
- The council shared what programs in their communities offer services for children from birth to age five.



- The council reviewed the Publicly Funded Infant, Toddler, and Preschool landscape in region 1BB.
 - *When asked: “How do you think families feel about the transportation time or distance to another school if services are not available in their community?” Feedback included:
 - Frustrating and stressful! Not finding anything nearby and not having easy access is complicated.
 - Economically is hard on parents! It’s a lot for them.
 - For children- having to wake them up early and at pick up the drive back home can be long limiting parental time spent with their children.

- The Council reviewed MIECHV and Early Intervention programs in region 1BB. -When asked: “Where and when would be a good way for families to become aware of these programs”? Feedback included:

*Community Events	*WIC Office
*Public Announcements	*Mail out flyers
*Prenatal Visits	*Social media
*Pediatrician	*Ads on transportation,
Office/Community Health	supermarkets.
Center	*Word of mouth
*Through social	
workers/referrals	

 - When asked: “What do you know about Early Intervention”? Feedback included:
 - *It takes a long time. One parent shared it took a month for services to start, leaving her child with only one year of EI services before transitioning.
 - *EI services can be provided in the home or at school.
 - *Monolingual therapy can be provided and beneficial. One parent reported being on the waiting list for a bilingual therapist and decided to go with a monolingual therapist and it really benefited her child as he learned English and Spanish.

- The Council reviewed the Licensed Child Care landscape and learned about other types of care.



-The Council reviewed the Illinois Department of Human Services Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

*What it is and usage in region 1BB

*When asked: "What barriers exist for families when considering access to child care?" Feedback included:

-Money, childcare is very expensive.

-Phobia, will they care for my child/safety

-Occurrences in centers

-Lived experience. Experience working in a center with staff that were not attentive to the needs of the children.

-Available space for my child.

-Conditions of the center.

Reflection questions addressed to get Council feedback on early childhood education and care services/options in other communities that they would like to see in their communities, their lived experience(s) looking for early childhood education and care services including challenges and supports found to overcome these challenges.

Decisions Made:

Parking Lot- Due to time, the group decided talk further about what changes they have witnessed (if any) in early childhood education and care in their communities for the next meeting. Resource guide for entire Region to be addressed in next meeting, where Community Collaborations will be addressed. Topic of discussion on hold for Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce: workforce is underpaid and not supported.

Next Steps: Next Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 21st, from 5-7pm through Zoom.

7:00 Meeting Adjourned