



MEETING NOTES

Region 1BB Family Council Meeting #5

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Date & Time: Tuesday 3/7/2023 5:00-7:00pm

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

Members Absent: Melina Avila (Melrose Park)

5:05 Welcome

-Icebreaker: “Thinking about your childhood, did you have a teacher who was a positive impact on your childhood? If so, how? Why did you think of them?”

-Review of Agenda and Community Agreements

-Review of the Council’s work so far: Together the Council has reviewed West Cook Region Demographics, Early Childhood Education and Care Programs, Priority Populations, and Slot Gap Analysis.

Next Steps: N/A

5:20 Data Walk: Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce

Notes: - Who are they? Review the list of what professions are included in the ECEC workforce. The Council agreed to include:

- Janitorial staff/housekeeping staff
- Healthcare Providers
- Service Coordinators
- Receptionists

-Review of demographic information for ECEC Workforce by position.

-Review of regional differences in race/ethnicity of licensed center teaching staff.

-Review of demographic information for male teaching staff. The Council reflected on male and female teachers and discussed:

- Male Teacher qualities included that they are paternal role models.
- There are worries about personal bias and potty training with male teachers.
- Female Teacher qualities included that they are more nurturing and have maternal instincts.



- Similarities of male and female included they have the same education, having the same expectations, both care about education, and both share the same interest in the wellness of children and success in school.
 - Review of demographic information by language spoken by role and setting.
 - Review of demographic information of educational attainment by Region.
 - The Council reflected on the diversity of the ECEC workforce in our Region.
- Feedback included:
- Surprise to see the lack of language representation.
- The Council reflected on the staffing crisis in ECEC. Feedback included:
- Workforce is underpaid and not supported.
 - Student: teacher ratios are high.
 - Stress and burnout from the responsibility level of working with specific age groups (infants).
 - Internalizing community/family disparities of those served by the staff members through education and care.
 - Not feeling valued by administrators.
 - Travel, lots of driving for home visitors.
- Review of ECEC salaries.
- Reflection on ECEC workforce strengths and weaknesses
- Recommendations include:
- *Mental health support for ECEC professionals

6:50 Parking Lot, Google Drive Review

- Due to time, adding to our parking lot of ideas, pending topic from today's meeting: your thoughts on the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and the difference it makes between programs who accept CCAP and those who do not.

Next Steps:

- Next Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 21, from 5-7pm through Zoom.
- Family Council members were asked to cast their vote on when they would like to meet the Action Council Members. Majority votes for hybrid option. They are open to meet and discuss whichever topic we deem necessary to complete the Regional Scan. More details to come.

7:00 Meeting Adjourned