



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 1-B-C Family Council Meeting

**Date & Time: February 16, 2023, 5:00-7:00 PM Zoom**

Council Members present: Sharell Howard, Brenda Lopez, Simone Gatlin, Regina Harden, Marisa Covington, Kemi Robbin, and Aisha Esquivel  
Council Members absent: Ladonna Reynolds and Tiara Harris Magee

#### **5:00 PM: Welcome & Introduction (15 mins)**

Notes:

- Family Council Members introduced themselves to the new members that joined.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Ice Breaker Question

#### **5:15 PM: Ice Breaker (10 mins)**

Do you think our technology improves our lives or destroys them? Why?

Notes: N/A

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Review of Community Agreements.

#### **5:25 PM: Review Community Agreements (5 mins)**

Notes:

- The Family Council reviewed community agreements and decided they didn't want to make any changes to them now.

Decisions made: Community Agreements will be emailed to Council Members.

Next Steps: Meeting Timeline/Overview

#### **5:30 PM: Meetings Timeline Overview (10 mins)**

Notes:

- RCM-Ashonti Jackson updates Family Council Members on Action Council Meetings/Timelines.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Regional Community Demographics & Landscape presentation.

#### **5:40 PM: Regional Community Demographics & Landscape (35 mins)**



Notes:

\*FACE Specialist Jaime Garibay explains the data we are reviewing based on the 2020 census. Based on the data in IECAM, we are aware that it's not accurate, which is why we have the Family and Action Council Meetings and forming Focus Groups/Interviews. The questions below are included on the Jam board Family Council Members used sticky notes to record their responses. Family council members discussed what their community demographic landscape looks like.

1. What is the community demographic landscape (population, ethnicity, and poverty)?
  - o Some communities in Oak lawn have more seniors than young families, are a great family community with a good mix of races, has a high community of stay-at-home moms, there are primarily middle eastern, white, Hispanic, and some black/African American. No access to equitable, high-quality child care, communities are segregated, and families are suffering from a lack of income and having to choose how to survive in every area in Region 1-B-C. Chicago Heights-right across the divider line from Flossmoor, older neighbors love the diversity (white, mixed, Hispanic).
2. Why is this information necessary for the scan?
  - o To have a realistic view of what needs are in the communities, to give a complete picture of everything in perspective of what's happening in and around our communities and we must be aware of the unique population we are serving and their ethnic background before we can adequately provide support services in these areas.
3. What is the community demographic landscape? (Businesses, organizations, and schools)
  - o We need more programs that target family engagement, people want to be in communities they trust, and Local Park districts have many programs for children and teens, there are many fast-food restaurants and a few quality grocery stores, and no community centers.
4. Why is it essential to include this information in the Regional Scan? (Businesses, Organizations, and Schools)
  - o Assess what needs can be filled and where there is room for improvement.
  - o Decisions made: N/A
  - o Next Steps: N/A



### **6:15 PM: Early Childhood Education and Care Programs (35 mins)**

Notes:

**\*FACE-Jaime Garibay presented PowerPoint on ECEC Programs; members were instructed to place answers to the questions on the PowerPoint into the jam board.**

1. What programs are in your region?
  - o Park Forest Head start, Child care, Aunt Martha, library and park district programs, early intervention, family intervention programs, music lessons, acting and art studio, and family enrichment program. Oak Lawn-Early Intervention, family engagement programs, Park District, preschools, library and reading programs, and programs for children of all ages, older residents, and seniors. Harvey-Restoration Ministries, afterschool programs, boxing, park district, tutoring, and child care centers. Chicago Heights- child care centers, head start, and prairie state college child care center.
2. What is the region's current Early Childhood Education and Care landscape?
  - o Doesn't seem to be enough head start programs, but the daycares look good. There are about 25 daycares around Harvey, no more than 3 miles away. There is a reasonable number of preschool programs in Oak lawn. Minimal childcare programs offer services to infants/toddlers under 15 months.
3. What insights about the ECEC landscape stand out?
  - o South suburbs have minimal opportunities available to families for child care from birth-5 years old. Areas like Orland Park and Homer Glen don't have much head start-guessing because of less poverty.
4. Are there any local or regional programs or funding sources supporting ECEC services?
  - o EHS-Early Head Start, HS-Head Start, PFAE-Preschool for All Expansion, EI-Early Intervention, CCAP-Child Care Assistance Program, PFA-Preschool for All, and PI-Preventative Initiative

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Q&A/Parking Lot

### **6:50 PM: Q&A/Parking Lot (10 mins)**

Notes: N/A

Decisions made: N/A

Follow-up/Next Steps: Send Follow up email to Family Council.

**Next Meeting March 16, 2023, 5:00-7:00 PM Zoom.**