



AGENDA

Region 26 Family Council Meeting

Location: 1st-floor conference room, 130 S Lafayette

Date & Time: Monday, February 13, 2023, 6:00-7:30

- - **Welcome & Introductions (10 min)**
 -
 - **Priority Populations Presentation (10 min)**
 - **Decision-** Children and families are very underrepresented and underserved in our area,
 - homelessness numbers are higher than family council members would have thought.
 - Things that impact the poverty level in our area?
 - rural isolation
 - when you are traveling an hour for services or an hour to the local public assistance office
 - documents have to be faxed to certain agencies and one may have to travel to one and pay to use it
 - Poverty
 - paperwork that goes with the public assistance/services is extensive
 - Greatest Factors
 - Unemployment (ranked high as the top three factors)
 - Rural isolation (ranked high as the top three factors)
 - Substance abuse (ranked high as the top three factors)
 - Community violence
 - Incarceration rates
 - Substance abuse cases are at an all-time high
 - The uptick in substance abuse and community violence makes it more difficult to help and support the families in that situation.
- - **Early Childhood Education and Care Programs (20 min)**
 - Discussion (20 min)
 - What are we doing well in our region?
 - Gaps in the system early beginning, covering rural isolation and services needed.
 - PACT- giving help to the community takes children to appointments that are needed so they can get the help that they need.
 - o Helping the community one step at a time for what they need and getting them where they need to be.
 - - Birthright



- o Help with diapers, formula, and baby items, help with coupons, and everything for new moms to succeed.
 - o Blessing for moms that need the help.
 - - Wirc in Macomb
 - o Food drive closet for clothes shoe belts purses anything that you would need to have to make sure that you have what you need.
 - - Tri-State family services in Hancock county.
 - What needs to change?
 - - Mental health stigma
 - o There is barely any support
 - o Free mental health classes
 - o Emails
 - o Check in with parents to know they are not alone and they can reach out to them.
 - - Access to mental health care
 - o So much trauma linked to priority populations that we need to first unpack the trauma before we can know.
 - Possibly offer incentives for providers
 - - Parents are isolated because of the fear of being judged
 - - Parenting is a competition at all times
 - - Lose yourself when you are a parent
 - - Special services are limited in the area, and not easily accessible.
 - - Providers don't have the capacity for children with special needs.
 - - Waitlists for PFA and private preschools
 - Possible solutions
 - Incentives for mental health providers
 - Better access to special services
 - Parent groups on weekends
 - What barriers to services do Families have?
 - Transportation
 - Not enough slots, long waitlists
 - Quality of program
 - It's who has a spot, not what aligns with your parenting style.
 - Doesn't have the chance to pay for who you want or where you want to go
 - Spots aren't available
 - Shortage of teachers
 - Hesitant to allow home visiting

Review (10 min)

Housekeeping (5 min)



Next Meeting

Date: March 13th, 2023

Time: 6-730pm

Location