



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 13 Family Council Meeting

**Date & Time: March 14, 2022, 7:00pm-9:00pm**

Council Members present: Sarah Brashear, Kathy Brown, Ranzie, Callahan, Toni Carter, Jessica Hogg, Rachel Jackson, Katlynn Mullins, Jacob Purcell, Hannah Raney, Katie Schmollinger, Kelsey Smith, Veronica Whisler

Council Members absent: Shelby Coke, Lexi Kanteres

#### **7:00 Welcome, Introductions (7 mins)**

Notes:

- Heather Pruettt – Regional Council Manger, Brittany Lemons – Family & Community Engagement Specialist, Jessica Chin – Administrative Support
- Sarah Brashear – Marion County, Kathy Brown – Clinton County, Ranzie Callahan – Jefferson County, Toni Carter – Jefferson County, Jessica Hogg – Clinton County, Rachel Jackson – Marion County, Katlynn Mullins – Marion County, Jacob Purcell – Marion County, Hannah Raney – Jefferson County, Katie Schmollinger – Marion County, Kelsey Smith – Jefferson County, Veronica Whisler – Marion County

#### **7:07 Ice Breaker (8 mins)**

Notes:

- Family Council members shared their earliest memory from Pre-K in child care or with a caregiver.

#### **7:15 Community Agreements Review (1 min)**

Notes:

- Worked on Community Agreements as a council.

Decisions made:

- Members agreed to abide by the current Community Agreements within our meeting space.

Next Steps:

- We will review the Community Agreements at every meeting and open them back up for discussion.

## **7:16 Recap from Action Council (6 mins)**

Notes:

- Heather reviewed updates from the Action Council and Regional Scan.
- Brittany shared how the Regional Scan is capturing family voices and quotes.

Decisions Made:

- The Family Council agreed with how the Regional Scan is capturing family voices and quotes.

Next Steps:

- Email Heather if you have any case study ideas for the Action Council.

## **7:22 Early Childhood Education and Care Programs Overview (1 hour 10 mins)**

Notes:

- Presented Region 13's Early Childhood Education and Care Program data and asset map.
- "The most important thing for me is quality of care, knowing that my kids are well taken care of. I've had two kids at different times in child care centers and I have actually been willing to pay more and drive farther for a center where I knew they had higher accreditations and better-qualified teachers."
- "We wanted a home vs a center because, in some of the centers, there are a lot of turnovers with staff. We wanted to have consistency."
- "One of my children has high blood pressure. It would be nice to find somebody that would be willing to check his blood pressure, so I don't have to leave work and also find availability for two infants."
- "I struggle in the summertime to find care. With our work schedule, we don't have anybody to watch our child on certain days. He bounces around to whomever I can find in our family that can keep him. If I can't find somebody I have to call into work which is super inconvenient."
- "Availability has been and is continuing to be difficult to find. When I say availability, I mean quality options. When I was transitioning from the babysitter to the daycare options, I messaged around 15 places and they said they could put me on the waitlist which was a year and a half long."
- "It is important to have child care workers that are not only there to watch your child but to insure all their needs are met. Last year when I lost my daughter and had a hard time, I can remember the center letting me bring my children on days they were not scheduled to come in. I can tell they were filling their cup emotionally when I was not able to do that. Just having child care workers that love you and love your kid and family, makes all the difference."
- "I stayed at home with my son until he went to preschool. I was worried about him falling behind before he went to preschool so I worked with him a lot. When he ended up going to preschool he was so behind in social skills. I fully regretted not sending him to child care because he was not social at all."

Decisions made:

- The majority of programs and child care centers are only in the major towns which makes families and caregivers drive far for care.
- The Council discussed what factors are most important to them when choosing child care services. Examples:
  - Cost
  - Location
  - Quality
  - Values
  - Availability
  - Love/Trust
  - Summer Programs
  - Staffing Ratio
  - Special Needs
  - Infant Care
- Members discussed why families choose child care center/home-based child care over school-based Pre-K.
  - Full Day Programs
  - Transportation
  - Availability
  - Class Size
- Families and caregivers have sacrificed many things in their personal lives because of child care needs.
- Members feel like the programs they put their children in helped them be ready for Kindergarten.
- Members shared their experiences and struggles with being a stay-at-home caregiver or using family/friends for care.
  - Unexpected schedule changes
  - Quality
  - Social Skills
  - Family Relationships Change
- Questions from the Action Council were presented and answered.

### **8:32 Training and Support for Family Council (1 min)**

Notes:

- On-demand foundational trainings were shared.

Next Steps:

- On-demand foundational trainings can be used between meetings to help us with our work.

### **8:33 Closing, Reminders (3 mins)**

#### Notes:

- Discussed Focus Groups and interviews and requested members to send the Consent Form to anyone they believe would like to share their experiences.
- Shared when Region 13 will be hosting Town Halls in April.

#### Next Steps:

- If you would like to participate in the Town Hall Meetings, please fill out the form to tell us what Early Childhood Education and Care topics you would like to hear about or discuss.
- The next Family Council meeting is April 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 pm.

#### Follow-up/Next Steps:

- We will review the Community Agreements at every meeting and open them back up for discussion.
- Email Heather if you have any case study ideas for the Action Council.
- On-demand foundational trainings can be used between meetings to help us with our work.
- If you would like to participate in the Town Hall Meetings, please fill out the form to tell us what Early Childhood Education and Care topics you would like to hear about or discuss.
- The next Family Council meeting is April 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 pm.