



MEETING NOTES

Region 13 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: April 11th, 2023, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Council Members present: Sarah Brashear, Ranzie Callahan, Toni Carter, Shelby Coke, Jessica Hogg, Katlynn Mullins, Jacob Purcell, Hannah Raney, Katie Schmollinger, Kelsey Smith

Council Members absent: Kathy Brown, Rachel Jackson, Lexi Kanteres, Veronica Whisler

7:00 Welcome, Introductions, Icebreaker (16 mins)

Notes:

- Heather Pruettt – Regional Council Manger, Brittany Lemons – Family & Community Engagement Specialist, Jessica Chin – Administrative Support
- Sarah Brashear – Marion County, Ranzie Callahan – Jefferson County, Toni Carter – Jefferson County, Shelby Coke – Washington County, Jessica Hogg – Clinton County, Katlynn Mullins – Marion County, Jacob Purcell – Marion County, Hannah Raney – Jefferson County, Katie Schmollinger – Marion County, Kelsey Smith – Jefferson County
- Family Council members shared who their favorite teacher or caregiver was growing up.

7:16 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.

7:17 Recap from Action Council (9 mins)

Notes:

- Heather reviewed updates from the Action Council meetings.

- Shared the concerns and needs that have been captured by providers, families, and the community.

Decisions Made:

- The Family Council agreed with the concerns and needs that have been captured.

7:26 Regional Scan Review (5 mins)

Notes:

- Brittany reviewed sections of the Regional Scan and quotes that were captured that supported the concern or need.

Decisions Made:

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

7:31 Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Discussion (45 mins)

Notes:

- “I have a friend who has been a preschool teacher for eight or so years, and she’s leaving at the end of this school year because they are hiring aides and paraprofessionals at a higher rate. They are all making more money, or almost as much money as what she’s making after having all that experience.”
- “It’s not set up to be a professional career. It’s set up to be a temporary stepping stone. It doesn’t offer any benefits, long-term longevity options, or even pay increases. You’re not going to keep people if you can’t pay them or offer them any benefits.
- “People are feeling unappreciated and overworked. Demands that are placed on them are too high and they are leaving the profession to go find something that doesn’t quite demand the same amount of work from them and not a whole lot of respect in return for it.”
- “In the past, there were so many teachers and not enough jobs and now our weakness is that we have so many jobs and not enough teachers. It’s like we’re just pulling people from anywhere and whoever wants to be a teacher.”
- Reviewed how grant-funded programs receive their funds and the challenges that come with it.
- Shared staff qualifications for child care centers, home providers, and Preschool For All.
- “I can’t imagine going to college to accumulate 60 credit hours’ worth of debt to make \$15 or \$16 an hour. That’s just insanity to me.”

Decisions made:

- Region 13 is not very diverse in the Early Childhood Education and Care workforce.
- The Council discussed why they think it is difficult for programs to keep staff:
 - Pay

- Benefits
- Unqualified staff
- COVID regulations
- Workload expectations and pressure
- Members shared why they think there is turnover in staff:
 - High-demand job
 - Unappreciated
 - Work environments
- The amount of education needed to be qualified as a teacher in child care is not equivalent to their pay.

8:16 Parent/Family Engagement Discussion (8 mins)

Notes:

- Discussed how our next meeting will be recommendations and needs in our Region.

Decisions Made:

- Members shared one word that describes the Early Childhood Education and Care programs and services in our Region.
 - Difficult
 - Scarce
 - Vital

Next Steps:

- Come up with one need that you believe our Region needs in Early Childhood Education and Care for our next meeting.

8:24 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.

8:25 Closing, Reminders (2 mins)

Notes:

- Shared when Region 13 will be doing Facebook Live Story Time.
- Region 13's last Virtual Town Hall will be on April 13th at 6:00pm.

Next Steps:

- The next Family Council meeting is May 9th from 7:00-9:00 pm.