



MEETING NOTES

Region 13 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: May 9th, 2022, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Council Members present: Ranzie Callahan, Toni Carter, Jessica Hogg, Katlynn Mullins, Jacob Purcell, Hannah Raney, Katie Schmollinger, Kelsey Smith, Veronica Whisler

Council Members absent: Sarah Brashear, Kathy Brown, Shelby Coke, Rachel Jackson, Lexi Kanteres

7:00 Welcome, Introductions, Icebreaker (8 mins)

Notes:

- Heather Pruettt – Regional Council Manger, Brittany Lemons – Family & Community Engagement Specialist, Jessica Chin – Administrative Support
- Ranzie Callahan – Jefferson County, Toni Carter – Jefferson 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, Veronica Whisler – Marion County
- Family Council members shared the latest series, movie, or book they've watched or read and enjoyed.

7:08 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.

7:09 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.

7:10 Regional Scan Review (4 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.

7:14 Regional Strengths (9 mins)

Notes:

- Discussed the strengths that Region 13 has in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC).
- “I do think that there are some really great programs in our region. I know that we’ve attended a couple of them. There’s just not enough of them.”
- “I personally had a really great experience with our Birth to Three program when both my sons were in speech. Once I found them, they were really awesome at helping me. I felt like they were really fast, and it was just a really positive experience.”
- “From a foster mom standpoint, I’ve had the same case worker for four years. I think that our foster agencies that have those valued people are really important. I’m really thankful for our case worker.”

Decisions made:

- The Council agreed on these strengths:
 - Great Teachers
 - Great Programs
 - Strong Community Support
 - Birth to Three Program
 - Case Workers

7:23 Regional Needs (4 mins)

Notes:

- Brittany asked the Council members to rank the needs of our region in an email following our last meeting.

Decisions Made:

- The top five needs after receiving everyone’s list:
 1. Increase wages and/or benefits for ECEC staff and workforce.
 2. Adding additional slots for Full Day Preschool programing in the way of Preschool For All, Preschool For All-Expansion, or Heath Start while also adding before/after school care programs for wrap-around services.

3. Increase longevity and reduce turnover in the current workforce by creating better working conditions, supplying additional professional development and training, and providing resources and support for teachers and staff in the field.
4. Adding additional licensed Child Care slots throughout the region and including evening and weekend care.
5. Improving access to high-quality family counseling and mental health services in all four counties.

7:27 Recommendations (9 mins)

Notes:

- The Council answered questions that could help us work on our recommendations.
- “If you think about just like everyday living, mental health, and daycare. I don’t know who you can talk to who doesn’t have a need for that. What’s missing is how important it is to literally everybody. If it’s not there, we all need it, and I don’t understand how it is not talked about all the time.”
- “I just really hope that the people who actually get to make these decisions listen to the people’s voices and understand and hopefully change this for the future generation, so it isn’t so hard for them.”

Decisions Made:

- Members felt like it was difficult to rank the needs because they were all so important for families.
- What stood out the most during this process was how many families are affected by child care needs.

7:36 Recap from Action Council (4 mins)

Notes:

- Heather reviewed updates from the Action Council and what is next after the Regional Needs Assessment has been released this summer.

Decisions Made:

- We are going to encompass as many of the needs in our recommendations as possible by combining the Action and Family Council’s needs.

Next Steps:

- After the Regional Needs Assessment is published, we will be sharing it widely among our community with the help from the Action and Family Council.

7:40 Closing, Next Steps, Reminders (20 mins)

Notes:

- Discussed the participation of the Regional Needs Assessment dissemination.
- Recruitment for additional Family Council members will open this summer.

Decisions Made:

- We will continue to have our meetings on the second Tuesday of the month during the summer.
- The in-person celebration event will include the Action Council members and families.

Next Steps:

- Jessica will be sending a follow-up email asking if you will be continuing into the next term of the Family Council.
- If you have suggestions on where we should go for our in-person celebration event, please email Jessica with your ideas.
- Brittany will be sending out an anonymous survey about your experience with the Family Council.
- The next Family Council meeting is June 13th from 7:00-9:00 pm.