



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 34 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: 04/25/23 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Council Members present: Dane Cruz, Maria Pizano, Pankti Jani, Kaylee Peters, Brittany Nielsen, Jen Johnson, Martha Campos, Luisa Alfaro, Ana De La Luz, Elina Gabaculine, Laura Rosales, Fernando Aceves Yoselin Martinez, and Maria Salazar.

Council Members Absent: Katia Lezama, and Tirzah Jones

#### 7:00 PM: Welcome and Introductions (10 min)

Facilitator (s): Maria Pizano

#### 7:10 PM: Ice Breaker (10 min)

Facilitator (s): Maria Pizano

#### 7:20 PM: Connect Lake County (15min)

Notes: Presentation given by Monica

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### Notes: Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

- The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect households struggling to afford internet service by providing a discount of up to \$30/ month for new or existing internet service.
- Connect Lake County ai helping with the ACP Application process, getting a laptop/tablet/Chromebook, Accessing digital skill assessments, and much more.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### 7:35 PM: Review of Demographics, ECEC Programs, and Slot Gap (25 min)

Notes: Presentation given by Maria Pizano

Notes: Reviewed Information Regarding the Number of children under 6 years old



- Lake County has 50,660 total children, out of which 23,865 children from age birth to two years and 26,795 children from age three to five years,

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Reviewed Information Regarding children under five by Race and Ethnicity**

- Out of a total number of children 19,604 i.e., 47% of children are identified as white (Non-Hispanic/Latino),
- 13,337 i.e., 32% of children are identified as Hispanic or Latino,
- 3,410 i.e. 8% of children are identified as Asian (Non-Hispanic/Latino),
- 3,106 i.e., 7% of children are identified as Black or African(non-Hispanic/Latino),
- 1,997 i.e., 5% of children are identified as Two or More Races(non-Hispanic/Latino),
- 121 of the children are identified as Some other Race (Non-Hispanic/Latino),
- 65 of the children are identified as American Indian or Alaska Native,
- 20 of the children are identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (Non-Hispanic/ Latino).

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Reviewed Information Regarding children under five with All Parents Working**

- Out of the total number of children 11,536 children are living with one parent working in the family,
- Out of the total number of children 24,725 children are living with two parents working in the family.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Reviewed Information about children under six by Federal Poverty Level (FPL)**

- 2,275 children five and under are 0-50% FPL,
- 4,930 children five and under are 0-100% FPL,
- 7,690 children five and under are 0-130% FPL,
- 11,850 children five and under are 0-185% FPL,



- 12,902 children five and under are 0-200% FPL,

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Review Program and Services & Slot Gap information**

- The Family Engagement Specialist gave an overview and differences between Licensed Child Care Centers, License Exempt Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Centers, Prevention Initiatives, Early Head Start, Preschool for All, and Preschool for All Expansion.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Reviewed Information about Early Childhood Education and Care Programs and Services (ECEC)**

- Early Head Start (EHS) has one site and 70 capacities, by publicly funded,
- Head Start (HS) has five sites and 299 capacities,
- Prevention Initiative (PI) has eight sites and 553 capacities,
- Preschool for All (PFA) has 29 sites and 2,880 capacities,
- Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE) has two sites and 155 capacities,
- IDHS Home Visiting no site and 71 capacities,
- Licensed Child Care Center (LCC) has 120 sites and 12,599 capacities,
- Licensed Family Child Care Center (LFCC) has 368 sites and 4,021 capacities,
- Licensed Exempt Child Care Center (LECC) has 10 sites and 684 capacities.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Determine the Slot Gap between Licensed Child Care, Licensed Family Care Centers, and Licensed Exempt Family Care Centers**

- 17,304 Total ECEC Slots,
- 33,356 Children with No seat 66%.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Determine the Slot Gap for Publicly Funded Early Childhood Education and Care**

- From age Birth to Two, 623 Children are with publicly funded slots while 5,461 are without slots,



- From age three to Five, 3,334 children are with publicly funded slots, and 3,484 are without slots.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **What gaps still exist in the data? Are there any questions we cannot answer due to missing data?**

- Sources of the data collected,
- Requirement of breakdown in data of 0-2 years and 3-5 years of child care facilities,
- Data is missing the number of undocumented families,
- Data about people already working in daycare to see if they want to continue getting more education,
- More updated data are needed for future planning,
- More detailed data for household income with the total number of family members.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

### **7:55 PM: Review of Strengths, Opportunities, and Needs (20 min)**

Facilitator(s): Maria Pizano

Notes: **Strengths within our Region**

- Birth to Five Councils
- Park Districts of Lake County,
- Food Pantries located in different areas within Lake County,
- Community Agencies within the Region,
- Art Centers within the Region,
- Lake County has many libraries offering varieties of sources to community members.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **What are the needs and opportunities for growth in our Region?**

- Programs for mental health for staff and children are needed,
- Programs such as parental support for new parents,



- More summer programs for school-age children are needed as parents are still working during summer break,
- Awareness of current opportunities and how to access those opportunities should be spread,
- First Aid and CPR training are needed for both parents and child care providers,
- More sports programs and Art classes are needed for the overall development of children,
- More resources are needed to help with children's basic needs,
- More tutors are needed in child care centers.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **What barriers do parents/families/caregivers face with accessing early childhood care and education in the Region?**

- Parents are facing language barriers like interpretation, Application forms, etc.,
- Use and availability of technology is a challenge for some parents,
- Transportation cost is also a barrier for parents,
- Child care cost is one of the obstacles for parents,
- To find information about child care for children is difficult,
- Accessing and navigating medical resources for children is difficult for some people,
- Information on all the programs and services for children is not available on one unified platform.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**8:15 PM: Recommendations (35 min)**

Facilitator(s): Maria Pizano

Notes: **Who are the children in our county that currently lack access to high-quality early learning opportunities?**

- Children with special needs,
- Children of families with lower income,
- Children of incarcerated parents,
- Children of homeless parents and teen parents,
- Children of undocumented community members are lacking access to high-quality early learning opportunities.



Notes: **What do children and families most need in terms of program type, length of day/years, and comprehensive services?**

- Night and weekend care programs are needed for families working second, and third shifts and weekends,
- Extended lengths of days in child care are needed for families working long hours,
- Nutrition programs for parents to learn what is healthy for children,
- More summer programs for school-age children are needed as parents are still working during summer break,
- Providers that speak the family's native language are needed for better communication,

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**8:50 PM: Closing and Reflection (10 min)**

Facilitator(s): Maria Pizano

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**Next Family Council Meeting on May 24, 2023, at 7:00pm**

**Location: Microsoft Teams**