



## 3rd MEETING NOTES

### Region 33 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: 01/12/23- 4:15-5:30pm

Council Members present:

Marie Laure Lamare, Kourtnei Carlson, Jessica Burrell, Janel Young, Morgan Lewis, Leanne Corson

Council Members absent:

Christopher Myers, Jessica Alvarado

#### 4:15pm: Welcome, Introductions, and Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Recording Notification and Consent-There were No Objections
- Welcome & Introductions
- Icebreaker: *What is your family resolution for 2023?*
  - Get more involved, open at home business in daycare (offer night care), Downsize home, Communication within the home, Travel more, Be more present and slow down, Maintain schedule and get routine, Spend more time together, Spend more time with grandbaby, Continue organizing life, Finish building home

Decisions made: N/A

#### 4:20pm: Establish Community Agreements (5 minutes)

Notes:

- Guidelines we will follow as we move forward to ensure open, active, inclusive, and respectful dialogue and participation.

Decisions made: N/A



- We will seek to understand differing perspectives, at times agreeing to disagree.
- We will not hesitate to speak up if you have trouble seeing/hearing
- We will respect each other's views.

#### **4:25pm: Review of last meeting**

- **What is community?**
  - People coming together and sharing similar interest
  - Similarity, safety
  - People come together to make something work like a team or family
  - A support system
- **What communities do you belong to?**
  - School District
  - Work Place
  - Hospital
- **Where do you think the largest issues of providing equitable childcare for families in our area exist?**
  - Cost of Child Care
  - Availability of care
  - Home providers keep capacity low, so they won't have to credential
  - Quality of care for Low-Income families
  - Home providers cost more than Center-based providers
  - Access to Health care
  - Knox County data shows more married/no children homes
  - Henderson County data shows more Senior Citizens
  - Data could be skewed due to limited responses, responses based on bias- creates a shortfall of funding for our region
  - Societal shift away from extended families
- **What is most important to you when looking for childcare?**
  - Safety of Children
  - Cost of Care
  - Availability
  - Quality child care
  - Experience of provider
  - References
  - Preparation for Kindergarten readiness



- Resource for families preparing their children for kindergarten:  
Family Engagement Programs from ParentPowered, Ready4K
- **What steps need to be taken to provide available, quality, and equitable child care in our community?**
  - Monitoring of staff by agencies/oversight
  - Education and location
  - Staffing challenges need to be addressed
  - Raise Income limits to allow more access
  - Lessen bureaucratic approval times
  - Funding and policy assistance to providers from the State
    - cases of providers not accepting funds due to strings attached
  - Licensing for child care providers needs to be simplified
    - creates difficulty attracting quality people into field
  - Director's credentialing is more than Educators
  - Accommodate providers with the right skills for working with children
  - Credentialing does not equal caring- repair the disconnect
  - Neighborhood based- closer access
  - Create a "reference" system
  - Transportation Systems for "out of the way" places
  - Flexible Hours that reflect work schedules
  - Re-educate society to allow families to prioritize their children over making money
- **With the lack of pediatricians in this area, how do you access healthcare for your children?**
  - Availability is limited to 2 pediatricians in Galesburg in our Region
  - Utilizing Family Doctors
  - Utilizing Nurse Practitioners
  - Traveling to Peoria (Out of Region)
  - Providers are scheduling more than 3 months in the future
  - Health Plans limit access to select Doctors
- **Are there programs in place to support migrant, immigrant, refugee families?**
  - None known

Decisions made: N/A



#### **4:40pm: The Village Early Childhood Collaboration: Regional Collaborative Landscape**

Notes:

The Village Early Childhood Collaboration presentation on the Region #33 Collaborative Landscape by Rhonda Hillyer

Core Team-

- Rhonda Hillyer:  
Prenatal to Age 3 Consultant/Coordinator Village Early Childhood Collaboration
- Kim Stickell:  
SAL Family Community Services/Child Care Resource & Referral of Midwestern Illinois
- Malia Owens:  
Home Child Care Network/SALFCS
- Emily Henry/Amy Fullerton:  
while Emily is on Leave Preschool for All/PFA Expansion ROE#33
- Amy Gipe:  
Prevention Initiative ROE#33
- Mary Reed:  
West Central Community Services/Head Start/Early Head Start
- Lisa Medina-Foshay:  
West Central Community Services/Head Start/Early Head Start
- Tara Case:  
Family Services/Early Literacy/Prevention Initiative/Center-Base Program ROE#33

The Village has a MOU with Birth to Five Illinois and strives to work together for the region.

State Prenatal to Age 3 Illinois State Board of Education Free Services

- Prevention Initiative Home Visiting - ROE#33
- Prevention Initiative Center-Based Support - ROE#33



- Ages 3-5 Preschool for All - ROE#33
- Preschool for All Expansion - ROE#33

Federal Head Start Free Services 100% FPL/SNAP some 135% FPL

- Early Head Start (Home Visiting) - West Central Community Services
  - Head Start - West Central Community Services
- Cost for Families

State Department of Family Services Licensing

- Homes
  - Licensed Exempt Homes
  - Licensed Child Care Homes
  - Licensed Child Care Group Homes up 16 slots
- Sites/Centers
  - Licensed Exempt Sites
  - Licensed Exempt Centers
  - Licensed Child Care Centers

Community Based Preschools 3 years old to 5 years old

- Local organizations that run programs. Ex. Churches, private schools
- MAPS showing different Child Care throughout the Region #33 counties.

What the Village has been working on:

- Increasing the Early Childhood workforce
- Increasing capacity of current Early Childhood programs
- Increasing the amount available spots for children in programs
- An outreach campaign to educate the public about the importance of early childhood
- Discovering what needs there are in our community and how we can break down barriers

Collaborative Groups in Our Region

- Youth Empowerment System (YES)- Birth to 21 years of age (Mental Health Grant)
- Recovery System of Care (ROSC) - Support for families trying to get to recovery from Substance Use Disorder or are in recovery



- Blue Ribbon Task Force - Raising awareness about Child Abuse and working on Preventions
- Drug Endangered Children Alliance- Just beginning

#### Final thoughts -

- Stipend dates
- Ribbon Cutting 1/19/2023 11:00 for Birth to Five Illinois Region #33
- Focus Groups Single moms, Single dads, Families of Children with Special needs, Foster families
- Tell us your story.

Decisions made: See Below

#### **5:07pm: Next Steps (5 minutes)**

##### Notes:

- Next Meeting will be:
  - Date: February 9, 2023
  - Time: 4:15-5:30pm
  - Location: Bondi Building, Conference Room
- Family and Community Engagement Specialist will:
  - Email Minutes of meeting to Council members
  - Follow up with Community Events in Region

#### **5:15pm: Meeting Adjourned**