



MEETING NOTES

Region 33 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: 3/23/23- 4:00pm

Council Members present:

Jessica Alvarado, Kourtnei Carlson, Leann Courson, Marie Lamare, Rhonda Hillyer, John Mabon, Roy Van Meter

Council Members absent:

Morgan Lewis, Chris Myer, Janel Young, Jessie Goodwin, Jessica Burrell

4:00pm: Welcome

Notes:

**Recording Reminder*

**Community Agreement- Respect each other's views, Speaking up*

**Icebreaker- What is your favorite Spring activity?*

Walking/Running, Walking with family, be outside, enjoy nature, go to the zoo, long walks in the warm weather, planting flowers, flower beds, landscaping, fishing, New growth, fog lifts, warm weather, rainy days make good days for my business (The Play Place), warm weather.

4:04pm: Review of last meeting minutes (11 minutes)

Notes:

*Scenario of Challenges

*Video: *"And How are the Children?"*

-Insights of Council: Touching. Children are important. "Taking care of children is the most important thing a parent do." "Children is everything." "Children is a great blessing for us." "My children are your children. Your children are my children. I will give your children the same care I give my own." "The most you can give them (children) is love." "In Africa, we don't have money, but we can give love."



4:15pm: Review Regional Scan (68 minutes)

Notes:

**Families & Caregivers*

Cost:

- Many child care costs are supplemented by State/Federal assistance. Examples- Link, School, Health Insurance
- Middle Class families don't have access to the assistance programs.
- Knowing or finding out about the programs is part of the problem.
- Aetna & Molina Insurance plans are not being accepted by area Health providers?
- People driving to Chicago for root canals.
- Providers have found they make more money if they don't take the State Aid.

Quality

- High Turnover among providers- hard to build relationships with children.

Availability/Access

- Learning to read and write at age 2 isn't important
- Children becoming acclimated is important
- Learning how to handle emotions is important
- Learning to interact is important
- My children spend more time with providers than me during the week. There are things they can get more out of daycare than at home.
- Unlicensed providers in the Immigrant population can be a lot cheaper (\$16 vs. \$150) and the child can be in a day care that speaks the child's language.

**Strength/ Workforce Challenges/ Barriers*

Strengths

- Family leaders are starting to band together to solve problems
- Families using their voices



Challenges of Workforce

- Shortage of providers and employees in Centers
- Pay is not a livable wage

Barriers for Families & Caregivers

- Providers have no choice but to pass costs on to Families
- Great training will help with staff turnover.
- Lack of daycare
- Summer child care is a huge need in our community.

5:23pm: Next Steps (minutes)

Notes:

**Next Meeting for Family Council:*

When: April 20th, Thursday
4:15-5:30pm

Where: Lower Level, Bondi Building
321 E. Main, Galesburg, IL.
(Hybrid Available through TEAMS- See calendar invitation)

Agenda:

5:09pm: Meeting Adjourned