



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 24 Family Council Meeting

**Location: Hybrid: Zoom & 1304 Sunset Ave. Suite B, Yorkville, IL 60560**

**Date & Time: 1/24/23, 6:00pm to 8:00pm**

Council Members present: Kennedy Sparks, Shannon Meyer, Nicole Soloff

Council Members absent: Morelia Delgado, Patti Blahetka

#### **6:00pm-6:15pm: Introductions & Icebreakers (15 Minutes)**

Icebreaker Activity: Share a memory from preschool or early elementary school that stands out to you most. Why do you feel you remember this memory?

#### **6:15pm-6:20pm: Review Community Agreements/Reminder of Foundational Trainings available**

#### **6:20pm-6:30pm: Revisit Child Care Wish List/ Share Action Council discussion (20 Minutes)**

Notes: The Action Council gave insight through their lens on what they thought the Family Council's insights were for choosing their top three priorities in choosing childcare. Below is the child care wish list as a reference for discussion.

- Curriculum
- Building
- Location
- Staff Education and background
- Affordability
- Reviews/Recommendations
- Hours of Operation Policies (discipline, sick, vacation)
- Flexibility (schedule)
- Atmosphere
- Staff/Child ratios (capacity in each classroom)
- Authentic

#### **6:30pm-6:40pm: Homework Follow up (10 mins)**

**Homework: What are some of the communities' strengths and weaknesses when it comes to Early Childhood Education and Care**

### **6:40pm-7:15pm: Early Childhood Education and Care Programs (35 mins)**

Notes: We reviewed the region's Early Childhood Education and Care programs and answered the following questions after review of data presented from IECAM to gain the perspective of how this affects families in our region.

Questions:

1. What are some of your communities' strengths and weaknesses when it comes to Early Childhood Education and Care?
2. What programs or services for children birth through age five do you know of in Grundy and Kendall counties?
3. What stands out to you about the Early Care and Education services after reviewing the IECAM data?
4. How do you think families feel about transportation time or distance to another school if it is not available in their own community? Or how do you feel if you are experiencing this challenge?
5. What resource barriers exist for families when considering access to care? What barriers have faced?
6. What are some possible solutions to some of the barriers?
7. Does anyone have experience with Early Intervention services? What was your experience?
8. How do you feel about the time it takes to start Early Intervention therapy once an evaluation has qualified your child for services? What support would have helped during the waiting period?

Highlights of council members perspectives:

- Some of the community strengths are there are a lot of child care facilities in the area.
- Private schools are less expensive than childcare centers.
- There are many services in the region for children and families (early intervention screenings, home visiting, preschool for all)

- Challenging finding affordable child care in the area, and if parents must commute to work 30 minutes or more in the event of an emergency it is difficult getting back to their children.
- Application and process for obtaining childcare subsidy is difficult and takes a long time to receive notice of approval or denial status.
- The need for trained staff in centers with special needs children

Decisions made: Plan of action for possible solutions to barriers within the region.

**7:15pm-7:45pm: Early Intervention Overview (30 Minutes)**

Notes: Council members viewed a 3 minute video of what Early Intervention is all about and had a discussion on the advantages of Early Intervention and their experiences if any with Early Intervention services.

Next Steps: Share information within our personal circles on Early Intervention


**7:45pm-8:00pm: Family Council Meeting Logistics and Questions (15 Minutes)**

Next Meeting: Hybrid

Date: Tuesday February 7, 2023

Time: 6:00-8:00 pm





If you need a page 3. The notes shouldn't be longer than 3 pages. If they are, please contact Jes at [jscheinflug@birthtofiveil.com](mailto:jscheinflug@birthtofiveil.com)