



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 12 Family Council Meeting

**Date & Time: Monday, December 19, 2022, 4:30pm**

Staff present: Donna Rardin, Ann Oswalt, Sophie Kershaw-Patilla

Council Members present: Sara Adams, Melinda Evans, Cassi Fiscus, Emily Gullet, Whisper Shick, April Walls

Council Members absent: Sara Farmer, Brandi Foster, Sandra Hyde, Whitney McCullough

#### **4:30 Welcome, Introductions and Icebreaker (10 minutes)**

Notes: Donna welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Family Council. All participants provided an introduction and participated in an icebreaker activity.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **4:40 November Meeting Recap and Review Roles and Responsibilities of Family Council (5 minutes)**

Notes: Sophie provided an overview of what was discussed during the previous Family Council meeting and reminded everyone that the notes are available on our website at [www.birthtofiveil.com/region12](http://www.birthtofiveil.com/region12).

- Community Agreement
- Roles and Responsibilities of the Family Council
- Regional Scan Overview and Questions
- Family Engagement

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **4:45 Regional Scan Discussion (23 minutes)**

Notes: Ann provided a brief overview of the Regional Scan for the new members and opened this month's discussion to focus on the Slot Gap.

- Ann shared data from Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map ([IECAM](#)) and Illinois Department of Children and Family Services [Sunshine](#) website but mentioned that the report numbers don't necessarily tell the current story of



child care availability in our area (for example, how many children utilize multiple providers and numbers are sometimes years old).

- Family Council members shared their stories about accessing child care.
  - Long wait lists – may take months to secure a spot; often no communication at all that a spot is ever available
  - Lack of quality care options – finding a provider with availability often trumps finding quality care
  - Scheduling – many families need care on weekends, in evenings, or for extended hours; some spots are not year-round
  - Costs – some providers don't accept Project CHILD; some providers charge to hold a child's spot (for example, teachers may not need child care over summer but may be charged to hold their child's place)

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: Council members are asked to consider what they would like to see from a child care provider for future discussions.

### **5:08 Priority Populations (21 minutes)**

Notes: Donna defined priority populations and explained why it is important to identify and hear from these voices.

- A video ([Implicit Bias: Peanut Butter, Jelly and Racism](#)) was shared to open the discussion about including different voices and keeping an open perspective during our conversations.
- Donna shared priority populations identified by the Birth to Five Illinois and the Region 12 Action Council and asked for additions from the Family Council (compiled list below).
  - Families with non-traditional work schedules (evenings, weekends, production-based, etc.)
  - Non-English speakers (support services not available during school breaks; are bilingual providers available in our Region?)
  - Children of teen parents
  - Families experiencing homelessness
  - Families living in poverty or deep poverty
  - Children with diagnosed disabilities
  - Single parent/guardian families
  - Families supported by WIC
  - Families involved with DCFS



- LGBTQ+ families
- Families or caregivers with low education attainment
- Transient/migrant worker families
- Families who face barriers based on culture, language, religion, or immigration status
- Children of a parent or legal guardian with a disability
- Families with refugee or asylum status
- Families who lack transportation

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: Council members are asked to continue identifying priority populations that need to be included in Interviews or Focus Groups that are currently not represented in the data or Council membership.

#### **5:39 2023 Meeting Schedule Discussion (9 minutes)**

Notes: Donna reviewed the current meeting schedule (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month) and explained that some of the upcoming dates will coincide with school and work Holidays. The option to add a second meeting to the schedule was also discussed.

Decisions Made: Members agreed that meetings during the day were not very accessible to family schedules. Council agreed to keep the schedule as is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, and members will attend as able. Some meetings may be rescheduled in the future to accommodate Holidays.

Next Steps: Sophie will send an updated Zoom calendar invitation along with the meeting notes.

Next Meeting: January 16, 2022

Time: 4:30pm

Location: Virtual