



Meeting Notes

Region 17 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, December 1st 5:00-6:30pm

Council Members Present in Person: Teresa Cornejo, Kelly Rhodes, Clymeshia Nelson

Council Members Present on Zoom: Marisela Vega, Lakeesha Smith, Alesia Smith,

Council Members Not Present: Ashley Giebelhausen

5:00 Welcome & Introductions (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Carol Weisheit, Regional Council Manager (RCM); Becky Thacker, Family and Community Engagement Specialist (FACE); Monica Reed, Regional Administrative Support (RAS) shared information about themselves and their families.
- Meeting folders were provided for in-person attendees.

5:10 Icebreaker Activity (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Each council member and staff gave their name and shared their favorite game from childhood.
- FACE discussed the Mission and Values of Birth to Five Illinois and pointed out that the information is in the Family Council Google Drive.

5:20 Introductions of Family Council Members (10 min)

Notes:

- Who are you & who is in your family?
 - Family Council Members shared information about themselves and their families.
- Why is the work of Birth to Five so important to you?
 - Members shared they want better opportunities in their county for their children, they want to be a voice for struggling parents, it is important for people from all walks of life to come together, everyone has different needs and we need to hear those voices, want to advocate for children to get the services they need.

5:30 Establish Community Agreements - Establish a safe space to share our ideas...be sure our voice is heard in a respectful environment. We want to provide opportunities for everyone to share their thoughts and needs with each other. (15 min)



Notes:

- Group activity discussion on shared screen with input from all members
 - The details of the Community Agreement will be posted on our Google Drive.

5:45 Discuss: Roles & Responsibilities of the Family Council (15 min)

Notes:

- Serve as an advisory committee to the Action Council (professionals, child care directors, resource and referral networks, policy makers)
- Share critical input from being a parent of young children. This input will be used for the Regional Scan.
- Give feedback, an important part of our work
- Advocate for family needs, your own and others in the community
- Identify gaps, share your personal experiences, how it works for you and how we can change it and make it easier for parents.
- Raise issues of concern from the community. Be a voice for families that are not at the table.
- We need to find more members; please talk with others you feel may be interested.
- Family Council runs parallel to the Action Council and both parts are critical to the Regional Scan.
- One size does not fit all, families need different things at different times. What would be great to support you while you are raising your family?

6:00 Individual Roles and Responsibilities of Family Council (15 min)

- An overview was given and we will discuss details at next meeting
 - Mission and vision will be on Google Drive: top 3
 - Family voice
 - Racial equity
 - Building relationships

6:15 Discuss: Meeting Schedule, Location & Accommodations (15 min)

- Keep Zoom as an option, this is a good location, After 4:00-4:30 is best time

Next Meeting:

Date: December 19, 5:00-6:30 pm