

# MEETING NOTES

**Location:** [Virtual Zoom](#) or in person

## **Region 1-B-D Family Council Meeting**

**Date & Time:** Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 3:00-5:00 pm

**Council Members present:** Julie Center, Wendy Mamola, Lizz Merdinger, Najma Nishat, Betty Williams

**Council Members absent:** Charlotte Erickson, Arisbet Figueroa, Molly Mejia

### **3:00 pm: Welcome & Introductions**

Notes: Irene welcomed the Family Council members and introduced herself and the Cook North team. Irene shared the Google Drive folder will be used to share data and information for the Family Council. Irene shared with Family Council members that we would like for everyone to feel welcome and that we are so grateful for their time. Irene shared that we would do our best to choose the most convenient day of the week and time for our future meetings. If someone has to miss a meeting, the team will work with the member to get them caught up and share any missed information.

Irene expressed her gratitude to everyone for joining the Family Council.

Due to one member having to leave early, Irene facilitated a poll regarding which day and what time would be best for Family council members. Monday was the preferred day and one member preferred 12:30-2:30 with the other members preferring 3:00 and later. Irene will check in with missing Family Council members and then confirm the final vote for the preferred day and time.

**Decisions made:** Preferred day to meet based on the poll was Monday.

**Next Steps:** Irene will speak with Family Council members that were absent in order to confirm the best day and time for future meetings.

### **3:10 pm: Icebreaker Activity**

Notes: Irene asked the Family Council members to introduce themselves, share their family story and answer the question, "Who made a big impact in your childhood and why?" Family Council members shared their family story and answered the question. Irene also took a moment to invite members to answer only what they felt comfortable with.

**Decisions made:** N/A

**Next Steps:** N/A

### **3:40 pm: Introduction to Birth to Five Illinois, Council Purpose & Member Expectations**

Notes: Ilinca gave an overview of Birth to Five Illinois. She presented the Birth to Five Illinois vision, mission, and values on PowerPoint. Ilinca presented the Birth to Five Illinois Family Council's purpose. She explained to the members that their voices will be representing family voices to the Action Council. The Family Council will explore what is working, where there are gaps and what the needs are of families. Irene shared an overview of the work ahead. The goal to mobilize communities, and equitable access to inclusive, high-quality, early childhood education for all children. She shared that there are various data sources, and we will be looking at this data together. She also said that first, we're going to look at the data and then conduct focus groups and interviews to include as many voices from the communities in Cook North.

**Decisions made:** The Family Council will meet twice a month starting January for 2 hours each time.

**Next Steps:** Irene will share the agenda for the next meeting via a calendar invite.

### **4:10 pm: Break (10 minutes)**

### **4:20: Community Agreements**

**Notes:** Irene then facilitated a discussion about working collaboratively and how everyone wanted to work together. Family Council Members shared their ideas. Some included active listening, demonstrating respect, and being innovative in our thinking, to name a few. Irene invited Family Council members to share events from the community with the Cook North team and to subscribe to our regional page to get updates from our region.

The team decided to begin the next meeting with the video of Mr. Rogers and discussion questions related to the video since there was not enough time.

**Decisions:** The Family Council members will use the community agreements for their work together. At each meeting, there will be an opportunity to add or revise the community agreements.

**Next Steps:** Irene will create a document with the community agreements, and they will be shared with the Family Council. The icebreaker for the next meeting will be the Mr. Rogers video and discussion questions.

### **4:40: Meeting Schedule & Location & Hybrid Discussion**

**Notes:** Irene created a poll to decide on the best day and time for the Family Council Meetings moving forward. The discussion occurred at the beginning of the meeting so that everyone present could share their input.

**Decisions made:** The team will follow up with Family Council members who were not present before deciding the day and time for future meetings.

**Next Steps:** Irene will contact the other members to discuss and will follow up with everyone about the best day and time for future meetings. In a hybrid model, Irene shared meetings will always be offered in person or via zoom.

**Open for Additional Questions**

**Notes:** No additional questions were asked.

**Decision made:** N/A

**Next Steps:** N/A

**Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** TBD based on dialogue with other Family Council Members