

MEETING NOTES

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

Region 1-B-D Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: Monday, December 19th, 3:00-5:00 pm

Council Members present: Arisbet Figueroa, Wendy Mamola, Charlotte Erickson, Julie Center, Najma Nishat, Betty Williams,

Council Members absent: Lizz Merdinger, Molly Mejia

Some Family Council members left the meeting early

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

3:00 pm: Welcome, Introductions and Recap from last meeting (10 minutes)

Notes: Irene greeted everyone and those who could not attend the first meeting. She asked for a quick introduction. She also asked everyone to write in the chat: What are they looking forward to in the new year?

Irene informed Family Council members that several new members would join the Council in the new year. She informed everyone that we are still recruiting Family Council members, and she asked to promote that in the communities.

Discussed alternating dates and times in an effort to be equitable. In the last meeting Wednesday was selected as a close second to Monday.

Decisions made: To alternate between Monday and Wednesday as well as the 12:30-2:30 pm and 3:00-5:00 pm timeslot.

Next Steps: Asked Family Council members to continue recruitment efforts

3:10 pm: Recap family story share-out (20 minutes)

Notes: Irene asked for those not present at the first meeting to introduce themselves and for others to give a brief recap of their family story. Invited Council members to share their family story on the Birth to Five Illinois website and to invite others to do so if they are comfortable.

[Family Stories — Birth to Five Illinois](#)

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

3:30 pm: Icebreaker Activity (30 minutes)

Notes: For the icebreaker Activity, Irene presented the video of [Mister Rogers Testifies to Senate](#)

Irene asked everyone to participate in an active discussion about that video using Jamboard, the chat feature on zoom or to come off mute. Family Council members answered the questions:

1. What word or phrase stood out to you?
 - Mental health
 - Trust
 - Emotional expression
 - Feelings
 - Children's inner drama
 - Control
 - All feelings are ok
 - You are unique and special
 - What do you do with the hate that you feel?
 - Childhood mental health
2. What gave you pause?
 - -how staying calm and keeping a warm tone was able to regulate the senator, that originally was rude and aggressive
 - -Mr. Rogers was geared toward 2-11-year-olds, but kids 8-11 would be severely disinterested in the show now since they are used to fast-paced animation.
 - -Expressing the fear of other program bombardments
 - -he was patient when expressing
3. What new insights did you have? What value does this have for our work together or in your life?
 - The importance of how children make sense of emotions, and the world can have lasting effects
 - How these concepts can apply to other areas of early childhood (child care, educational system, parenting, etc.)
 - the importance of children

- The best person to ask what children need or want is a child. Rogers worked with kids in small groups outside of his program to really get their valuable feedback
- How children want simplicity and want to see their lives and the people that represent them on tv

4 What do you plan to do now that you have watched this video?

- Share Mr. Rogers's videos with my children
- Share your thoughts with confidence with the community and family members.
- Pay closer attention to what kind of message most children's programs are sending
- A lot of research can be transferred from Rogers to the home. I plan on using the Fred Rogers Center Position Statement on Technology when I make choices for my kids
- Our words can make a big impact, so I want to share with my friends and family what WE are trying to do here with birth to five.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:00 pm: Break (10 minutes)

4:10: Community Agreements review (5 minutes)

Notes: Community Agreement presented by Irene and reviewed.

- Respect
- Lessons can leave but names stay!
- Be innovative and practical
- Minimize distractions as much as possible
- Actively listen
- Being proactive
- Acknowledge all perspectives
- Being prepared
- Listen to understand, don't listen to respond
- Utilize all our skills to drive this work

- Open mind
- Share your thoughts and ideas

Reviewed community agreements created in Jamboard in our first Family Council meeting. Irene invited Family Council members to add or modify the current agreements.

Decisions: Everyone agreed, and no changes/additions were made.

Next Steps: N/A

4:15 pm: Review Roles & Responsibilities of Family Council members (10 minutes)

Notes: Irene discussed the Family Council members roles and responsibilities using PowerPoint as a visual. The following roles and responsibilities were listed:

Identify gaps: using data, family stories

Family voice: interviews, focus groups-help with recruitment

Advocate: share critical input, feedback, and advocate

Advise the Action Council: share your stories, feedback, and input on data

Regional scan: all the information collected from interviews, focus groups, family stories, data

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:25 pm: Training Support for the Family Council (10 minutes)

Notes: Irene introduced the [On-Demand Foundational Trainings - Partner Plan Act](#)

These are optional pre-recorded trainings. These trainings cover various topics that could support the work the Family Council members will be engaged in leading up to the Regional Scan.

Foundational Training 1: [Early Childhood Education and Care Overview](#)

Foundational Training 2: [Racial Equity in Planning and Assessments](#)

Foundational Training 3: [Community Systems Development Overview](#)

Foundational Training 4: [Data & Asset Maps](#)

Foundational Training 5: [Parent & Community Engagement](#)

Foundational Training 6: [ECEC Facilities](#)

Foundational Training 7: [ECEC Workforce](#)

Decisions: Family Council members can choose which training to complete.

Next Steps: N/A

4:35 pm: What is Meaningful Family Engagement? What Does it Look Like for the Family Council? (25 min)

Notes: Irene had an active discussion with the Family Council members about meaningful parent engagement. She invited Family Council members to participate in Jamboard, using the chat feature on zoom or to come off mute and speak their response to the following questions:

When you hear meaningful parent engagement what does that look like for you?

- Being fully present, in the moment, limited distractions
- To be present with your children, in communication and interaction

What ideas do you have for meaningful family engagement?

- Respect everyone's story.
- Ask questions
- promote positive education and health behaviors among children and adolescents
- Being intentional
- Listen
- Show empathy
- Be genuine, actively listen
- Ask questions about others' experiences
- Ask open ended questions
- Respect multi-cultural perspectives
- Making sure everyone is represented and included
- Provide resources for those who seek help/guidance
- Meet people at their comfort level
- Be casual and conversational

How do you like to be engaged?

- Surveys because you comfortably give feedback

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps: To add additional responses to these questions in Jamboard

Open for Additional Questions

Notes: No additional questions were asked.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday January 18th Time 12:30-2:30 pm

Virtual or in-person