



## MEETING MINUTES

### Region 33 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: 12/8/22- 4:15pm

Council Members present:

Jessica Alvarado, Jessica Burrell, Kourtnei Carlson, Chris Myers, Marie Laure Lamare, Morgan Lewis, Janel Young

Council Members absent:

Leann Corson

#### **4:15pm: Welcome, Introductions, and Ice Breaker (10 minutes)**

Notes:

- Recording Notification and Consent
- Welcome & Introductions of Regional Council Manager & Staff
- Reviewed Community Agreement
  - We will seek to understand differing perspectives,
  - We will at times agree to disagree
  - We will not hesitate to speak up if you have trouble seeing / hearing
  - We will respect each other's views
- Ice Breaker/Introductions of Family Council Members
- Council members shared their names and favorite Holiday traditions. Shared information included: Children gathering and having fun, Driving around looking at Christmas Lights, the Christmas walk, Festival of Lights, Advent Calendars, Gathering with family, reading a favorite book on Christmas Eve
- 7 Trainings are available to Family Council members to support your efforts

Decisions made: N/A



#### **4:30pm: Questions and Discussion (40 minutes)**

Notes:

*1) What is community?*

- People coming together and sharing similar interest
- Similarity, safety
- People come together to make something work like a team or family
- A support system

*2) What communities do you belong to?*

- School District
- Work Place
- Hospital

*3) Where do you think the largest issues of providing equitable childcare for families in our area exist?*

- Cost of Child Care
- Availability of care
- Home providers keep capacity low, so they won't have to credential
- Quality of care for Low-Income families
- Home providers cost more than Center-based providers
- Access to Health care
- Knox County data shows more married/no children homes
- Henderson County data shows more Senior Citizens
- Data could be skewed due to limited responses, responses based on bias- creates a shortfall of funding for our region
- Societal shift away from extended families

*4) What is most important to you when looking for childcare?*

- Safety of Children
- Cost of Care
- Availability
- Quality child care
- Experience of provider
- References
- Preparation for Kindergarten readiness
- Resource for families preparing their children for kindergarten:

[Family Engagement Programs from ParentPowered, Ready4K](#)



***5) What steps need to be taken to provide available, quality, and equitable child care in our community?***

- Monitoring of staff by agencies/oversight
- Education and location
- Staffing challenges need to be addressed
- Raise Income limits to allow more access
- Lessen bureaucratic approval times
- Funding and policy assistance to providers from the State
  - +cases of providers not accepting funds due to strings attached
- Licensing for child care providers needs to be simplified
  - +creates difficulty attracting quality people into field
- Director's credentialing is more than Educators
- Accommodate providers with the right skills for working with children
- Credentialing does not equal caring- repair the disconnect
- Neighborhood based- closer access
- Create a "reference" system
- Transportation Systems for "out of the way" places
- Flexible Hours that reflect work schedules
- Re-educate society to allow families to prioritize their children over making money

***6) With the lack of pediatricians in this area, how do you access healthcare for your children?***

- Availability is limited to 2 pediatricians in Galesburg in our Region
- Utilizing Family Doctors
- Utilizing Nurse Practitioners
- Traveling to Peoria (Out of Region)
- Providers are scheduling more than 3 months in the future
- Health Plans limit access to select Doctors

***7) Are there programs in place to support migrant, immigrant, refugee families?***

- None known

Decisions made: N/A



**5:10pm: Next Steps (5 minutes)**

Notes:

- Next Meeting will be:
  - Date: January, 2023
  - Time: 4:15-5:30pm
  - Location: Bondi Building, Conference Room
- Family and Community Engagement Specialist will:
  - Email Minutes of meeting to Council members
  - Submit Council Members for pay

**5:15pm: Meeting Adjourned**