



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 35 Family Council Meeting

**Location:** Ottawa, IL

**Date & Time:** 11/28/2022, 5:02pm-6:30pm

Council members present: Chris Bickel, David Trenor, Elissa Barker, Kelsie Hardy, and Molly Wiley

Council members absent: Randi Paquette, Sean Dergance, and Steffanie Maxwell

#### **Verbal Permission for recording and photo release consent 5:02pm–5:08pm**

Notes: Agreed to by all Council in attendance. Consent granted through confirmation via chat as well.

#### **Welcome & Introductions of Staff and Family Council members followed by Ice Breaker 5:08pm-5:38pm**

Notes: Introduction of self and what made you decide to join the Birth to Five Illinois Region 35 Council? Presentation of three items and how they remind you of your family.

- Family members shared objects other than photos to describe their relation to their family.

Common reflections throughout the group were:

- A work history in education, nonprofits, and early child care.
- As parents, we always want more of our children.
- There is a concern that wages are too low for our educators and child care employees.
- There is a need for increased services whether it is specific to child needs or child care.
- A busy life schedule with the need of flexibility but the willingness to make sacrifices to better Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) and attend meetings.
- A range of single, blended, and two parent households all wanting to learn and have influence.



**Topic discussions and what to expect in conversation / Why we do icebreakers 5:38pm-5:42pm**

Facilitator: Charlotte McWade

**PowerPoint “What is Birth to Five Illinois” 5:42pm-5:48pm**

Notes: Points explained:

- Vision
- Mission
- Values and Goals

**Jamboard activity for Community Agreement 5:48pm–6:00pm**

Notes: What is our goal? What do we hope to achieve on our journey as a group? Understanding it is okay if the vision changes down the road. Introduction to Jamboard activity through chat. What are we seeking to achieve by meeting together? Answers received from Council:

- “I will always share my experiences honestly and respect others’ experiences as well.”
- “Supporting the needs of families to provide the best care for infants and children. Helping parents to give their littles the best education prior to beginning school.”
- “Finding what benefits children, the most.”
- “Helping folks find the available resources that exist and pushing for greater access for programs that have been effective.”
- “Identifying the ECEC needs of our regions as it pertains to families, children, and the overall education system.”
- “To learn resources for myself and share past experiences to be a helpful part of our education system.”
- “Finding the needs of our region to help serve all families needing ECEC.”
- “Acquiring the already existing resources for families, to find what resources are still needed.”

**Jamboard activity for Roles & Responsibilities of the Family Council 6:00pm-6:22pm**

Notes: Council shared the following insights into what they felt their roles are and what they bring to the table. Comments received:

- “Be willing to attend most, if not all, Family Council meetings and participate openly and honestly.”



- “Stay active in the community to provide updated resources to the families.”
- “Listen and contribute purposefully and respectfully. I will also bring in my parental and educational background to support the committee and community.”
- “I will be mindful of others’ experiences and work for the greater cause of helping the children in our community because they are our future. I will bring my individual experiences.”
- “To listen and learn from the experiences of other parents, share the information I learn, support local families, and help push for helpful programs for their littles.”
- “A background in the Illinois K-12 education system, who is willing to listen to current ideas, who is excited about changes and who knows little to nothing about birth to five educational programs.”
- “Becoming more active in the community by attending Family Council meetings and giving input as a parent of kids, both above five and under three.”

### **Questions and Answers**

Notes: None currently

### **Discussion 6:22pm–6:25pm**

Notes: Provided Birth to Five Illinois web link to “Share your Story” will follow up with link via email within one-two business days.

### **Wrap up and adjournment: Schedule Future meetings 6:25pm-6:30pm**

Notes: Members choose to use Google forms with the option of multiple dates and times provided so they may have the opportunity to choose what best meets their needs.