



MEETING NOTES

Region Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: December 6, 2022, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Council Members present: Megan Crookham, Kristin McGraw, Anita Frei, Maribeth Larson, Kerishena Metz, Courtney Kilgore, Laurel Huston, Hunter Stahl, Timothy Whitacre-Albertson, C'Ante Morris, Folanda James, Indirea Slaughter

Welcome, Introductions, and Icebreaker Activity

Notes: The regional staff introduced themselves. Then, the Family Council members introduced themselves and were asked to include the ages of their children and their favorite holiday tradition.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Introduction to Birth to Five Illinois, Council Purpose, and Member Expectations

Notes: Kari informed the Family Council about why Birth to Five Illinois was created. She discussed how Birth to Five Illinois is structured and showed an introductory video from the Birth to Five Illinois website. She described the goals as a state and the goals of our region. Kari explained the role of the Family Council compared to the Action Council, and informed the group that the Action Council will complete a Regional Scan. The Family Council completed a visioning exercise using Jamboard. The visioning exercise brought about a discussion about identifying barriers and determining how to overcome them. Frustration was voiced about lack of knowledge of available resources, what providers have to offer, and limits in spots for programs and services. Additional discussion revolved around a lack of funding. Member expectations were discussed, including terms of 1 or 2 years, coming prepared for meetings, attending meetings as often as possible, either in person or virtually, and participating in discussion. Kari informed the council that meetings will typically be recorded for internal purposes only, minutes are taken with no identifying information, and only high-level minutes are posted to our website. The council is a working council, and there is privileged information that should be shared prematurely. Kari explained that the Family Council was selected anonymously outside of the regional office.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



Community Agreements

Notes: Sarah facilitated a discussion about Community Agreements. She showed two examples and opened discussion to consider adopting one of the examples, creating one, or a combination. Most members spoke up to say they preferred the Early Learning Council Family Advisory Committee Community Agreements. They agreed to adopt the Early Learning Council agreements in totality, but wished to add one idea from the Healing Circle Agreements to it.

Decisions made: Adopted the Early Learning Council Family Advisory Committee Community Agreements, including one additional idea from the Healing Circle Agreements.

Next Steps: Review the Community Agreements each meeting.

Meeting Schedule Discussion

Notes: Kari explained this meeting would be the only meeting in December. She asked if a standing meeting schedule would be best for the new year, and most members agreed. Kari informed the members that a poll will be sent out so the Family Council members can provide their best availability for future meetings. Kari asked members to please respond to this request so we can make an informed decision about meeting dates/times.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: A poll will be sent to the Family Council members to provide their best availability for future meetings.

Open for Additional Questions

Notes: Sarah asked if the Family Council had any additional questions or comments. Some members commented that they would be learning a lot from these meetings, and others expressed excitement in being able to advocate for children. Kari reminded the Council that an email was sent regarding stipend agreements and those attending in person could sign the forms before leaving. Kari explained that our primary form of communication will be via email, and that Council members will have access to a Google Drive, where data and informational documents will be provided.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Council members must sign the stipend agreement if they haven't already done so.

Adjourn



Follow-up/Next Steps: Facilitators will send a poll to the Family Council about availability, and members will respond to the poll so the next meeting can be scheduled. Family Council Members will sign stipend agreements and send to Kari.

Next Meeting: In January, exact date and time to be determined based on Council feedback received.