



MEETING NOTES

Region 51 Family Council Meeting

Location: Birth to Five Illinois Office

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 from 5:30-7:30pm

Council Members present: Jamie Aldridge, Tanika Jones, Sara Trine, Antoinette Bidlingmaier, Megan Reynolds, Monique Nally. Hybrid: Bushra Ali, Kesha Harris. Council Members absent: Mindy Parks, Daniel Bacon, Hillary Kelly, Megan Dennison

5:30-6:15pm: Welcome, Community Agreements, Introductions & Icebreakers, Tell your story (45 minutes)

Notes: Amanda welcomed the members and went over the community agreements. The members introduced themselves and then answered the icebreaker. Each member went around and said their *Full name, county you live in, work/school/family life, and favorite Holiday dessert/cookie*. Icebreaker: On post-it notes, they answered, *something you like and/or appreciate about the Early Childhood Education and Care System*. Amanda collected them and posted them on a poster on the wall. Next, Amanda had each member tell their story. Questions were asked and answered. Decisions made: Not to add any additional Agreements at this time. Next Steps: N/A

6:15-6:30pm: Future meetings, How councils were selected, Who's on the Action Council (15 minutes)

Notes: Amanda told the council when we will be meeting in 2023 - every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Next, she explained how the councils were selected and who is sitting on our Action Council. Decisions made: N/A Next Steps: N/A

6:30-6:50pm: Racial Equity (20 minutes)

Notes: Amanda explained how racial equity is at the forefront of Birth to Five. She played the video "The Danger of a Single Story!" Amanda asked,

- How is the danger of having a single story relevant to our regional scan?
 - *You don't want people to judge, we all have single stories.*
 - *I'm not just a single mother who was in an abusive relationship. I'm more than that.*



- *I don't like checking the African American box, I'm not from Africa. My ancestry is from Ireland, so I always check "other"*
- *I don't feel comfortable checking the Mexican box because I don't identify as that and I don't want to check it for extra help.*
- *That's just like "white/caucasian non-hispanic," why is that an option?*

Amanda then asked the question:

- What are some ways we can improve our ways at this very moment?

Amanda provided the members with resources in their folders.

She went over the "Decolonizing Language Cheat Sheet" and the self permission form. These are to help members be more self aware of racial equity and have more tips and tools to bring racial equity to light. Amanda explained the importance of focus groups and interviews. She asked these questions:

- Who is sitting at the table?
- Who is trying to get in the room?
- Who is at risk of being erased from the room?
 - members asked *who do we think is missing?* Amanda replied, individuals experiencing homelessness - we have a home for them here

Decisions made: Amanda asked for the Council to think of who else they can recommend for Focus Groups or interviews.

Next Steps: Amanda asked for the council members to send those names to her so we can begin to schedule Focus Group and interviews.

6:50-7:10: Regional Scan & Data Intro, Action Council report (20 minutes)

Notes: Ashley introduced the process of the regional scan and showed all the Data Sources (IECAM, Data Asset maps and DCFS Sunshine etc.) She asked the council if they were interested in having access to their own Family Council google drive - members answered yes. Ashley went over the Action Council report from their meeting the night before.

Decisions made: A Family Council google folder will be created for the council so they will have access to the data/resources and meeting information.

Next Steps: Amanda will be creating a google folder for Family Council.

7:10-7:20pm: Agenda for Future meetings, Foundational Trainings Intro (10 minutes)

Notes: Amanda went over the agenda for the meetings in 2023. She also offered and recommended the Foundational Trainings education.

Decisions made: Amanda shared that she will be putting the links to the Foundational Trainings/Education Sessions in their Google Drive.

Next Steps: Trainings/Education Sessions will be offered to the Council Members and they were encouraged to take these at their leisure for it would support the work they



are doing.

7:20-7:30pm: Icebreaker. *Imagine your region has completed the regional scan - what do you see, hear, feel?*

Notes: Amanda went over the ice breaker, members wrote their answer on a post-it note and posted it on the poster on the wall.

Follow-up/Next Steps: Send out an outlook invite for the next meeting, Wednesday January 18th, 2023, and create a google drive folder.