



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 54 Family Council Meeting

**Date & Time: December 13, 2022 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Council Members present: Xandra Anderson, Arian Dodge, Ariana Lawless, Ashley Omlor, Brittany Coleman, Diamond Moss, Haley Rhoades, Jennalynn Wright, Jenn Wright, Johnathan Munoz, Kari Hastings, Kourtney Manno, Krista Dreher, Mindy Dolan, and Tateana Bailey

Council Members absent: Jerri Whetstone

#### **Welcome, Introductions, and Icebreaker (20 Minutes)**

Notes: Council Members and staff took turns introducing themselves for new members.

#### **Discuss Slot Gap (20 Minutes)**

Notes: A PowerPoint was put together with graphs and information about different levels of poverty for families (information shared was from 2019-2020-most recent reported). Included in the Slot Gap report was the number Child Care centers and licensed home childcare providers. We shared the comparison between spots available and the number of children under the age of five within Vermilion County. While reviewing this information, Council members were asked to think about the questions listed below to discuss after the PowerPoint.

#### **Review and Recap (70 Minutes)**

Notes: Council members were given a list of questions to discuss:

- What is the gap between the total number of children and early care and education programs and total services in the region?
- What is the gap between publicly funded programs and children eligible for publicly funded programs in the region?
- What are the possible drivers of the gap in care in the region?
- What data is missing that would be helpful to have to make a better analysis of the slot gap?



- What other indicators should be considered alongside the slot gap?
- Is there anything from the demographic discussion that can contribute to our understanding of the slot gap in the region?

With these questions, Council members brought up a lot of great points and their own questions including:

- That's a lot of stress on who is going to watch your kid, healthy or sick
- I can see culture being a factor in the gap
- One thing that I noticed is that the number for two working parents dropped from 2019 to 2020
- Too many kids and not enough spaces available
- Are we taking into consideration the number of kids from Indiana that are filling sports at daycares (instead of children from Illinois)
- Not enough staff
- High cost
- low staff wages
- Trust with the providers
- Safety for sure
- A lot of providers do not take state pay due to not being paid in a timely manner
- It's a difficult process. People think that because they are not eligible for one program that they don't think they are eligible for other programs
- Preschools need to promote the programs and resources they offer
- It's a non-stop witch hunt to find programs

Next Steps: In efforts to have updated information, a couple of Council members volunteered to help contact Early Childhood providers to find out the number of spots available at this time. Information gathered is being sent to staff members and will be shared at the next meeting to all Council members.

### **Parting Question (10 minutes)**

Notes: Council members were asked to think about all the information shared with this thus far and what else would they like to see regarding the regional scan.

Next Steps: a couple of things that Council members would like to know for the next meeting include



- They would like to know exact numbers, if possible
- What daycares are not accepting children ages two and under

Council members are encouraged to reach out to the staff members with any lingering concerns or new questions they may have.

**Next meeting:**

**January 10, 2023, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**