



MEETING NOTES

Region 56 Family Council Meeting

Location: 2455 Glenwood Ave, Joliet, IL 60435

Date & Time: December 15, 2022, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Council Members present: Latoya Johnson, Norma Romo, Juanita Quezada, Krista Escamillo

Zoom attendance: Erika Ortiz Wassenaar

Council Members absent: Heather Reed, Raquel Young, Kashima Davis

Mix & Mingle

Notes: Region 56 took this time to have Family Council Members complete their stipend agreement and photo release forms. Snacks and hot chocolate were provided.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Welcome and Introductions of Birth to Five Illinois Staff

Notes: After the mix and mingle, all Birth to Five Illinois Region 56 staff introduced themselves individually. Brief introductions and photos were shared.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

What is Birth to Five Illinois

Notes: Region 56 presented Birth to Five Illinois to the Family Council Members.

- Shared the Birth to Five Illinois website video.
- Explained our Vision and needs of the Action Council and Family Council and meetings.
- Emphasized on our goal, regional scan, and review.
- Explained how Birth to Five Illinois was started and background.
- A brief explanation was given on the early childhood education and care funding streams and resources.
- A short explanation was given about the solutions and restructures would look like and why the community voices are needed.
- Shared that our goals and values rely highly on family voice, racial equity, and collective impact.



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Introduction of Family Council Members

Notes: Each Family Council Member introduced themselves individually. Each member brought a family photo, and shared with the group. Family council members shared some of their personal experiences and connections with the early childhood education and care field.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

What is Family Council

Notes: Region 56 explained what Family Council is and gave examples.

Examples of items that were shared:

- To share personal experiences on early childhood education and care.
- Brainstorm ideas for service implementation
- Be an advisor on the Action Council.
- Identify who is not at the table.
- Finding focus group participants
- Follow our Birth to Five Illinois Region 56 Facebook

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Community Agreements

Notes: Region 56 explained what Community Agreements are and handed out sticky notes to each member to contribute to the board on which community agreements to add. Community Agreements that the Family Council Members came up with were:

- Listen to understand
- Assume good intent, but accept responsibility for impact
- Use “I” statements
- Move back / move up
- Names stay / lessons leave
- Patience
- Open for change
- Communicate effectively
- Compassion and empathy



Decisions made: These Community Agreements were decided on for all following Family Council Meetings.

Next Steps: N/A

Remaining Questions

Notes: Region 56 Team asked the Family Council Members if they had any additional questions. Some of the questions that the members asked were:

- Can we have service providers come to the meetings?
- Do all immigrants qualify for most of the programs, and do they all need social security numbers?
- Is there kids' nutrition programs or ideas to help kids' appetites?

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Some additional information on questions will be emailed in a follow up to the Family Council Members after the meeting.

Meeting Overview & Scheduling Next Meeting

Notes: Region 56 Team did an overview of the meeting and went over these items:

- Stipend Agreement
- Scheduling for next meeting
- Children at meetings
- Meeting flow document and topic overview
- Group Photo
- "Like" and follow Facebook

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 12th, 2023, 5:00pm-7:00pm via Virtual using Zoom.

Follow-up/Next Steps: N/A