



MEETING NOTES

Region 35 Family Council Meeting

Location: Ottawa, IL

Date & Time: 03/07/2023, 5:00pm-6:35pm

Council Members present: Elissa Barker, Kelsie Hardy, Melissa Terry, and Steffanie Maxwell

Council Members absent: Chris Bickel, Sean Dergance, David Trenor, Randi Paquette, Randi Paquette

Verbal permission for recording

Agreed to by all Council in attendance.

5:00pm Welcome & Introductions (3min)

5:07pm Barriers with Personas (8min)

Facilitator: Charlotte McWade

Notes:

- Finish slides 10-12 using Family Council add-ons from Jamboard. Council members discuss barriers in vocabulary based on how culture forces children to learn too young to act like an adult. Discussion as to how translations from teacher to the child to parent risk losing priority needs educators are trying to convey. The result is children face missing childhood events. Quality care is lacking and families with multiple aged children are forced to use multiple caregivers.

Concerning questions:

1. What challenges do parents/caregivers face in finding Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)?
2. What barriers do parents/caregivers face in accessing ECEC?
3. What strengths does Region 35 have for ECEC?
4. What does Region 35 need to make the ECEC workforce better?



5:15pm Barriers Vs. Strengths (51min)

Notes:

- Family Feud-Same form as the TV game show.

Barriers/Needs

- The top regional barriers faced are awareness, lack of options, transportation, cost, unlicensed providers, unlisted caregivers, and hours available for care, causing conflict in family schedules.
- Time, location, and trust with the provider vs. simply needing a caregiver and having no other choice due to a lack of resources.
- More qualified staff, proper benefits, increased staffing, respectable wages, and showing value to employees.
- Lack of paid time off. Societal stigmas in the ECEC world revolutionize expectations to become much higher, but the pay is not reflected.

Strengths

- Construction grants, utilizing current grants, realizing there are issues, Earlville preschool, summer food programs, weekend backpacks, and Summit learning.
- In addition, in-home daycares are on the rise. Quality in learning is showing in current Pre-schools.
- The LaSalle collaboration is a function of community nonprofits, educators, and ECEC students resulting in a positive networking source.
- Grand Ridge is moving forward with a preschool.
- Pediatricians have increased knowledge of early intervention.
- IVVC's career qualifying credits are offered to high school students.

6:06pm Additional comments via post-its. (27min)

Notes:

Council Members reflect on additional issues related to our region's barriers and strengths. Notated above

6:33pm Wrap up and adjournment-Schedule Future meetings.

Notes:

- Watch email for upcoming dates on the next meetings. Shared information on the progress we are seeing in working on the regional screen.
- "Empathy begins with understanding life from another person's perspective. Nobody has an objective experience of reality. It is all through our own individual prisms." – Sterling K. Brown