



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 54 Family Council Meeting

**Date & Time: Thursday, January 26, 2023, 6:30 PM**

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

Council Members absent: Diamond Moss and Jerri Whetstone

#### **Welcome and Icebreaker (15 minutes)**

Notes: This meeting was completely virtual. Council members that did attend via zoom took turns answering the icebreaker question: If you could spend a day living in any children's book, which book would it be and why?

#### **Special Speakers (15 minutes)**

Notes: Brandie L. Kuchefski District 118 Title I Grants Coordinator presented how her organization helps our local priority population.

#### **Discuss Priority populations (20 minutes)**

Notes: Council members reviewed a PowerPoint with the 12 priority populations that were determined to meet the criteria.

1. Children of teen parents
2. Children experiencing homelessness
3. Children in families in poverty or deep poverty
4. Children/families with Department of Children and Family Services involvement
5. Children with disabilities (physical, mental, and emotional)
6. Children of migrant or seasonal workers
7. Children in families with low caregiver education attainment
8. Children in families that face barriers based on culture, language, and religion
9. Children of a parent or legal guardian with a disability
10. Children/families with refugee or asylum status



11. Children in families who face barriers due to immigration status.
12. Children who are Impacted by Parental Involvement in the Criminal Justice System

It was noticed right away that missing from this list are Children of Military families and children in LGBTQ communities

Next Steps: Creating more focus groups to get a better insight into the needs of priority populations in our county.

### **Review and Recap (45 minutes)**

Notes: During this discussion, council members shared their personal stories about experiencing these problems.

- 1) What are the reasons children are not getting access to the services they qualified for?
  - a) Lack of resources
  - b) Transportation
  - c) Parents are not aware of or refuse to have their children screened. (Personal, medical, or religious reasons)
  - d) Do children or parents understand what is being said? (Language or education barrier)
  - e) Never knew what services are offered. How can you get help if you don't know help is available?
  - f) Parents may not know what is wrong because they don't understand. (Possible disability with parent and/or child)
- 2) What or who contributes to these reasons?
  - a) Some stores may not carry WIC-eligible foods.
  - b) City buses on some routes are closed due to not enough busses or drivers.
  - c) Doctors sometimes don't refer out to available resources without being asked.
- 3) What are you or someone else already doing to help?
  - a) National Guard Grant – Helps with bus passes, and gas cards and they have a child advocacy center to help parents.
  - b) WIC provides supplements for children up to the age of 5. (Benefits end on the month they turn 5)



- c) Habitat for humanity – “I have a Habitat for Humanity house and it’s great. It was built from the ground up by volunteers.....I actually helped build my home!”
- d) Women’s care clinic – Offer prenatal classes with registered nurses. The “Bridges” program helps pregnant mothers and then both mother and child up until age one. They recently started a “Branches” program to help moms and children up to age 5.

Other services in our area include but are not limited to Crosspoint Human Services, Crisis Center, Section 8 Housing, Aunt Marthas, and local food pantries.

**Parting Question (5 minutes)**

Notes: Is there other data that we should look for or people we should talk to to learn more about priority populations in our region?