



Meeting Notes: Region 51 Family Council Meeting

Location: Birth to Five Illinois: In-Person and Virtual

Date & Time: Wednesday, July 12, 2023, from 5:30-7:30 pm

Council members Present (In Person): Gail Waddell, Megan Loberg-Simmering, Mindy Parks

Council Members Present (Virtual): Antoinette Bidlingmaier, Bushra Ali, Kesha Harris, Tabitha Williams, Monique Nally, Tanika Jones

Council Members Absent: Sara Trine, Saunja Slater, Jamie Aldridge, Hillary Kelly

5:30-6:00pm: Went over the Community Agreements explaining why Community Agreements are important and had the Council Members add additional Community Agreements after revisiting. Engaged in the Ice Breaker (*Name, YO Soy De Activity*), Welcomed Amber Walters, updated on the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment Sneak Peeks, and went over Future Meetings.

- Family Council agreed that the existing agreements were still valid for their meetings.
- Amber introduced herself to the council and told a little about her background.
- Amanda told the council that the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment release date has been pushed back but is coming soon.
- Council decided that the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5:30pm-7:30pm still works for everyone at this time.

6:00-6:30pm: Revisited the Dissemination Plan for Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment. Followed up with who needs to provide the Birth to Five Illinois: Region 51 team with contact information and Asked the Question: Did you think of anyone else we need to reach or contact?

- Amanda let the Family Council know that many community partners were identified to receive the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment, but now need the contact information for those who were identified in the June Council meeting. We are specifically looking for connections with Stay at Home Parents, Homeschool Parents, Men/Fathers, and Faith-Based Communities.



- Some other organizations mentioned during this meeting were 100 Black Men, Dad's Can Too, Menard County Dad's Club, American Legion (specifically the Post on MLK DR.), Peace Riders, Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A), Big Brother, Big Sister, Heritage Ministries, Hooch Riders, Cherry Hills Church, Lakeisha Purchase, The James Project, and Fontaine Kurshall.

6:30-7:00pm: Reviewed the Decolonizing Language Cheat Sheet and took part in the "Infographic Low-Income Working Families" Activity in groups of two to three people.

- The Council was given an updated version of the Decolonizing Language Cheat Sheet by Erikson Institute and Amanda went over the language we should strive to use when engaging with families and our community.
- The Council was given an Infographic to look for language/images to try and determine if it was Individual vs. Systematic. We discussed how we could reword it and make it more systematic.

7:00-7:30 pm: Engaged in the Animal Kingdom activity as a group. Then reflected on what we learned, and asked if there were any questions. We then went over the data sources, foundational trainings, provided the Action Council report, and how to connect.

- Council members participated in the activity and then discussed how others perceive things differently than they do and neither are wrong or right. It was determined by the Council that we need to remember how everyone has different perspectives and we need to respect those perspectives.
- Amanda went over the data sources we use for Birth to Five Illinois.
- Amanda listed the links to the foundational trainings from Illinois Action for Children the Council can take.
- Amanda reviewed the ways to connect with us and reminded everyone to join our Facebook Group.

Next Meeting Family Council: Wednesday, August 9, 2023, Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Location: 1209 S. 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703