



MEETING NOTES

Region 1-B-D Cook North Family Council Meeting

Location: Virtual or in person

Date & Time: March 27th, 2023, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Family Council members present: Lizz Merdinger, Wendy Mamola, Julie Center, Najma Nishat, Betty Williams, Nancy Salvador, Safiyyah Hassan

Family Council members absent: Arisbet Figueroa, Charlotte Erickson, Molly Mejia, Sharmishtha Goel

3:00 pm: Welcome/ Review of Community Agreements (15 minutes)

Icebreaker: Use an emoji to share how you are feeling today.

Facilitator(s): Irene Di Minervino

Notes: Irene went over the agenda, community agreements, and what the activities will be for today. Irene asked the Family Council members to add an emoji about how they are feeling. Family council members shared their emojis and talked about them.

The Family Council members shared reflections on the collaborations and coalitions. Some of the takeaways/questions included:

- How are families informed about the purpose and existence of collaboration in their community?
- “I’m not aware of any”
- “How do they present this to families in communities?”
- I’ve seen that name [collaboration name] before. I don’t know anything.
- What would you say if the parents are not quite tapped into the school district?
- Disseminate information at all programs that have touchpoints with children (home daycares, private, nanny services).
- I remember going to the library and getting a lot of information.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

3:15 pm: Priority Populations Introduction (57 minutes)

Notes: Irene shared the criteria to determine priority populations: at-risk, under-served, measurable, timely, and distinctive.



The categories of “priority populations” were reviewed by the council members. The Family Council was divided into 2 small groups to discuss priority population information.

Define Priority Populations

Illinois Risk and Reach Report

Focus Group Reflections

McKinney Vento

Reflection Questions:

1. What does this information tell us about our region? - This area is diverse but segregated.
2. What do you notice about the location of different racial/ethnic families, location of early childcare providers, priority populations, etc. – The cultural and religious barriers people face
3. What data is missing or unavailable on these priority populations? - Children of incarcerated parents
4. Are there programs in place to support migrant, immigrant, refugee families? If so, what are those? Are they located in a place that can easily reach these families/communities? – Hopeful Beginnings, Palatine (for families looking for adoption options, not refugee specific); immigration status prevented many from seeking help during COVID.
7. COVID contributed to higher rates of unemployment and increased the number of people experiencing homelessness. What impact did it have on families in our Region? What services/supports were implemented to help those impacted? Have those services/supports remained in place?
 - COVID prevented abusive women from seeking refuge at shelters, and so they had to stay in the abusive home, which would have negatively affected the women and their children
5. What information is missing, or would be helpful to better understand this data?
 - Since timely is defined as relevant to the current landscape, what does this mean/how is it determined, and when would it be not “current” anymore? What happens when the immediate need isn’t there anymore? Are the families not a “priority”?
6. What does the data tell us about what our Region might need in the future? Did not have time to discuss this question.



Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

4:12 pm: Break (8 minutes)

4:20 Update from the Action Council (20 minutes)

- Support from AC + FC members for Focus Groups/Interviews
- Events in the community
- Updated Schedule for meetings
- Poll for meeting times

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace

Notes: Irene asked Family Council members for support with reaching dads, single parents, and pregnant women for Focus Groups and Interviews.

4:40 pm: Reflection on Regional Scan (15 minutes)

Notes: Irene asked Family Council members what are key elements of Cook North that should be shared in the Regional Scan's photographs and boundaries.

Family Council members shared: the mall and entertainment, the beach and the Lighthouse Museum, the Baha'i temple, Des Plaines having many trains, the Trickster Cultural Center in Schaumburg, and invited the team to look into hospitals in the region.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

4:55 pm: Questions/Comments/Reflections (5 minutes)

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 12th, 12:30-2:30 pm

Date: April 12th, 2023

Time: 12:30 to 2:30 pm

Location: Virtual or in-person