



MEETING NOTES

Region 56 Family Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: January 26, 2023 at 12:30pm-2:00pm

Council Members present: Laura Kimmel, Latoya Johnson, Juanita Quezada

Guest Speakers: Rebecca Anderson, All Our Kids

Council Members not in attendance: Krista Escamillo, Erika Ortiz Wassenaar, Victoria Theodossopoulos, Raquel Young, Heather Ramirez, Takara Jaloweic, Jessica Barclay, Norma Romo, Kashima Davis

Welcome (12:30pm-12:40pm)

Notes: Region 56 welcomed everyone into the Zoom call, briefly went over the agenda for the meeting, and introduced the guest speaker, Rebecca Anderson from All Our Kids.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

All Our Kids Presentation (12:40pm-1:00pm)

Notes: Guest speaker Rebecca Anderson presented on All Our Kids (AOK).

The All Our Kids Early Childhood Networks program is an initiative to promote healthy pregnancies and the positive growth and development of all children birth to five and their parents/caregivers by assuring a high quality, well-coordinated, easily accessible system of services and supports. AOK Networks use a data-driven approach to understand disparities and root causes of locally identified priority issues. The goal of the initiative is to improve outcomes for children and families through the implementation of evidence-based strategies that promote an effective local early childhood system.

Rebecca Anderson shared a power point presentation on IRIS.

Within the presentation Rebecca explained IRIS (Integrated Referral and Intake System), which is a web-based communication tool to help organizations connect the families they serve to the right resources in their community.



IRIS was launched in Will County in February 2020, before the pandemic. IRIS is in other states as well, Utah, Missouri, Kansas, and Illinois. Currently there are 15,593 number of unique individuals of families served in a referral through IRIS. There were 26,738 total number of referrals made. A referral in Will County's community standards is accepting or rejecting the referral within three business days. IRIS is HIPAA compliant. IRIS tracks referrals and finds out what the income is. IRIS is different from 211, where 211 anyone can call to receive a resource. It has replaced the crisis line, and it is a national number, however, they ask for your area specifically to give resources to your specific area. IRIS alerts the person at the agency receiving services through email.

Rebecca shared how to make an account in IRIS and how to navigate the website, community documents, community data, community referral reports, and utilizing searchable features and how to make a referral.

Any program would need to sign an MOA and can start with the program within the next day. Rebecca Anderson's email is randerson@willcountyhealth.org – Will County area.

A question was asked: "What other resources can you link us to, and is there somewhere to go to look?" Rebecca answered that the website for IRIS referral network does have listed resources on their website on where to go and to also email her the questions and referrals needed and she can direct the person to the right place.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Share the websites for IRIS with the Family Council Members.

[IRIS Referral Network \(willcountyhealth.org\)](https://willcountyhealth.org/iris-referral-network)

[Home](#) | [Connect with IRIS](#)

Agenda Review and Community Agreements (1:00pm-1:05pm)

Notes: Region 56 shared the agenda review with everyone on the Zoom call.

Rational Aims:

- Learn about AOK
 - Provide community supports to Council.

Experiential Aims:

- Dive deeper into how this information impacts your family.
 - Connect with other family council members.

Community Agreements were shared on a slide to the council members.



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Demographics Review and Feedback (1:05pm-1:20pm)

Notes: Region 56 presented on the regional data review, review of questions, and feedback. Two main systems were introduced. IECAMs (Illinois Early Childhood Asset Maps) which started in 2006 through University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, funded by ISBE and ISHS. The link to IECAM is [IECAM \(illinois.edu\)](http://IECAM.illinois.edu). The type of data found in IECAM is Early Childhood Education and Care Programs, demographics, geographic regional data such as state, county, municipalities, zip code, etc., as well as formats which are tables and maps (visual), blogs, social media, and news. The program data includes PFA, PFA-E, PI, EHS, HS, EI, and various home visiting. The demographics come from the Census and are centered around Early Childhood Education and Care. Region 56 showed a screen shot map of our county verses the Birth to Five Council and explained how the data is collected within the county. An explanation was given to the Family Council members on the ROE (school district) versus the county, and how some of the percentages fall outside the county.

A slide map from IECAM for Council Race and Ethnicity was presented. Region 56 explained the map legend and had a small discussion on the map presented. Region 56 Will County is majority non-Hispanic White population with small clusters of Hispanic or Latino population and Black or African American population. The map and data shown was produced in the year 2020. Region 56 presented a slide graph shown of Children Under 5 by Race and Ethnicity to the Family Council members.

Council members answers were collected from the previous meeting and produced on the next few slides and asked the council members to look over their answers and add any information they think needs to be added.

Region 56 presented the Public Transportation slide. On the slide, the public transportation is plentiful in the middle part to upper part of Will County, however, lower Will County is missing any type of public transportation. Will County has 21 major highways and four different Metra commuter rail lines that all connect to the Chicago Loop. However, the lower part of Will County does not have those connections or public transportation.

Region 56 explained that there are two bills that Senator Meg Loughran Cappel is drafting a bill to increase support to address the needs and barriers that transportation



plays around access to Early Learning. They are tapping into us to help them understand the realistic daily challenges of transportation. We are asking the council members to give us some information on needs and barriers. The council members were asked to message the Region 56 team with any information they would like to share.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Preview of Slot Gaps (next meeting) (1:20pm-1:50pm)

Notes: Region 56 explained that the next meeting will be centered around slot gaps. The google slides were shared with the council members and asked to look over the questions and be ready to discuss at the next meeting.

The questions the council members were given were:

1. What is the gap between the total number of children and early care and education programs and total services in the region?
2. What is the gap between publicly funded programs and children eligible for publicly funded programs in the region?
3. What are possible drivers of the gap in care in the region?
4. What data is missing that would be helpful to have in order to make a better analysis of the slot gap?
5. What other indicators should be considered alongside the slot gap?
6. Is there anything from the discussion last time that can contribute to the understanding of the slot gap in this region?

IECAM most recent information (2021-2022), graphs, and data points were shared and briefly explained to the council members and shared to talk about for next meeting.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Conclusion

Notes: **Next Meeting Schedule Information (1:50pm-2:00pm)**

Next Meeting:

- Senator Cappel requesting qualitative information regarding transportation barriers related to accessing child care or schooling



- Family Council meeting via zoom Thursday, February 9th, 2023 at 5:00pm-7:00pm
- Family Council informational early intervention meeting via zoom Thursday, February 23rd, 2023 at 12:30pm-2:00pm

Follow-up/next Steps: A follow up email will be sent out to each council member on questions asked, links requested, and next meeting dates, and Zoom links.