



MEETING NOTES

Region 56 Family Council Meeting

Location: Virtual - Zoom

Date & Time: February 9th, 2023, at 5:00pm-7:00pm

Facilitators Present: Madalyn Snowden, Keven Kerr, Erica LoBurgio

Council Members Present:

- Jessica Barclay
- Laura Kimmel
- Erika Ortiz Wassenaar
- Norma Romo
- LaToya Johnson
- Juanita Quezada
- Raquel Young
- Heather Ramirez
- Victoria Theodossopoulos
- Krista Escamillo
- Kara Jalowiec

Council Members Absent:

- Kashima Davis
- Tanija Williams

Sign In & Goals (10 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team welcomed the Family council, asked everyone to sign in, and presented the Community Agreements and Goals for the meeting. Goals for the meeting were:

Rational Aims:

- Understand why a slot gap exists.
- Find solutions to reduce slot gap.

Experiential Aim:

- Connect Council members in conversation.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a



Updates (20 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team went over the updates to the Family Council. The updates shared:

- Progress on transportation bill
 - Elected officials and our work at Birth to Five Illinois
 - SB 1435
- Valley View School District- Construction Grant
 - 60-million-dollar grant and 8 recipients were awarded
- Upcoming Focus Groups
 - EI Providers
 - EI Families
 - Teen Parents
 - Spanish Community Center
 - Blueprint Agency
 - School Districts
 - ECEC Providers

Decisions made n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Breakout Groups #1 – ECEC Programs (20 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team asked the Family Council to group up into break out groups. The activity goal is to work to learn about ECEC programs. The Family Council members used the Google document that was sent via email to help complete the chart. There were two to three people per group.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: Family Council Members were asked to share their answers in the large group in the meeting.

Group presentation / discussion (30 minutes)

Notes: The Family Council Members and Region 56 Team went over the answers given during the break out groups and had a discussion about the answers that were shared on each slide.

Questions and answers were as followed:



Early Head Start (EHS)

Goals and services provided?

- Foundations for school kindergarten and to promote a healthy pregnancy.
- Prenatal and postpartum education and supports for physical and emotional well-being.

Ages serviced and setting?

- Infants and toddlers under the age of three, and pregnant individuals.

How do you qualify?

- Families with income at or below 100% of the Federal poverty guidelines. Children from homeless families, and families receiving public assistance such as TANF, SNAP, or SSI are categorically eligible.

Funding source?

- Federal grants

Head Start (HS)

Goals and services provided?

- Provide intensive high quality, research based, comprehensive services to preschool age children to foster school readiness.

Ages serviced and setting?

- Preschool age

How do you qualify?

- families with income at or below 100% of the Federal poverty guidelines. Children from homeless families, and families receiving public assistance such as TANF, SNAP, or SSI are categorically eligible.

Funding source?

- Federally funded.

Preschool For All (PFA)

Goals and services provided?

- To provide high-quality early education center-based services for preschoolers to provide them with a foundation of knowledge and skills that allows them to be successful in school. Center or school-based child development/ education, developmental screenings, parent education, and family involvement.

Ages serviced and setting?

- Ages three to pre-k.

How do you qualify?



- Developmental screening to determine developmental status. The child must meet two criteria: children identified as being at risk of academic failure. Children whose family's income is less than 4x federal poverty guidelines.

Funding source?

- Early Childhood Block Grant
- ISBE distribute funds on a competitive basis every five years.
- Expansion grant – add funds.
- Funding can be decreased due to lack of enrollment.

Preschool For All Expansion (PFAE)

Goal and services provided?

- Same as above
- Full day
- Additional services such as mental health, dental, and family support referrals.

Ages serviced and setting?

- Ages three to pre-k.

How do you qualify?

- Same as above.

Funding source?

- Same as above

Prevention Initiative (PI)

Goals and services provided?

- Full family and child approach and engagement. Building a strong foundation for learning.

Ages serviced and setting?

- 0-3
- Center and Home Based

How do you qualify?

- Weighted eligibility based on a research based developmental screening. family needs, demographic factors, income levels FPL, Teen parent, homeless.

Funding source?

- ISBE (State funded)

Early Intervention (EI)

Goals and services provided?

- Provide therapeutic services and family coaching to support development.



- counseling, translation/interpretation, assistive technology, and family training & support are some of the collateral services provided.

Ages serviced and setting?

- Birth to two years and 11 months

How do you qualify?

- Child must have at least a 30% delay (each child will have a free evaluation by EI team)

Funding source?

- Illinois Dept. of Human Services.
- additionally, families with income above 185% federal poverty level pay a fee (No family fee right now).

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Goal and services provided?

- provided through local school districts and special education programs.
- ECSE professionals provide specialized educational and therapy services to children with a disability in a variety of settings.
- families and EC providers may request information about appropriate expectations for children's' development.

Ages serviced and setting?

- age 3-Kindergarten entry age.
- EC special education services can be delivered in different settings including EC programs, preschool, childcare, preschool for all, preschool for all expansion, head start, and other early childhood settings.
- setting may be identified in the IEP or the result of the parental choice.

How do you qualify?

- To qualify, the child must qualify in 1 of 14 categories of the IDEA as established by a multi-disciplinary team using age-appropriate assessments.

Funding source?

- local (property taxes).
- appropriated by state (state legislature).
- appropriated by federal (congress).
- funds to support special education.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Goal and services provided?



- Childcare assistance program that helps assist low-income parents with childcare payments.

Ages serviced and setting?

- younger than 13.
- special needs documentation until the child is 19 years old.

How do you qualify?

- for eligibility, a family must live in Illinois, have a need for childcare, 1 parent in a single parent household, or both parents in a two-parent household must work or attend an eligible, educational activity.
- have children younger than 13 that need care while the parents are working or going to school.
- have family income at or below specific limits generally up to 200% of federal poverty level.
- children with documented special needs may be eligible up to the age of 19.

Funding source?

- CCAP is funded by IDHS using a mix of state and federal funding.
- parents pay a copayment to the provider that is based on family size and income and the number of eligible children in care and the type of care.

Home Visiting

Goal and services provided?

- To gather an understanding of the child's typical home environment and how they act in that setting; Visit families regularly based on need determined in screening tool.

Ages serviced and setting?

- **Birth to age five; in the family home.**

How do you qualify?

- prioritized based on low-income, pregnant individuals younger than age 21, a history of child abuse or neglect, history of involvement with child welfare services, history of substance abuse or needing substance abuse treatment, use of tobacco products in home, parents or children with low student achievement, child(ren) with developmental delay or disability, families with a member serving in the armed forces.

Funding source?

- consolidated funds from Healthy Families Illinois and federally funded Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MICHEV) programs.



Home Visiting MIECHV

Goal and services provided?

- Home visitors who visit regularly to assist throughout pregnancy, after birth; support and training in parenting/safe practices; mentorship.
- HFI; PAT; HS/EHS

Ages serviced and setting?

- pregnant women and families with children up to kindergarten entry.

How do you qualify?

- different criteria for each program
- HFI: eligibility screen or parent survey determines to be at risk for child abuse and/or neglect; at least one MIECHV priority population.
- PAT: at least one MIECHV priority population
- HS/EHS: determined in accordance with Early head start/head start performance standards; at least one MIECHV priority population.

Funding source?

- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Licensed Private Child Care

Goal and services provided?

- Full-day care that provides a child with a routine and curriculum.

Ages serviced and setting?

- 6 weeks to five or six years old.
- Child Care facility

How do you qualify?

- None. For all children who have the funds.

Funding source?

- Parent payment
- CCAP

Licensed Home Child Care

Goal and services provided?

- Full day care that provides a child with a routine and curriculum.

Ages serviced and setting?

- 6 weeks to five or six years old.
- Providers home.



How do you qualify?

- None. For all children who have the funds.

Funding source?

- Parent payment
- CCAP

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Break (7 minutes)

Overview of Slot Gap Data (10 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team presented on ‘What is a Slot Gap Data?’ and shared the slot gap is a term used to describe the difference between the number of children who might need childcare and the number of theoretically available slots across all childcare options: daycare centers, Head Start programs, licensed in-home daycare, and other options.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Breakout Group #2 – Slot Gap Activity (30 minutes)

Notes: The Family Council members were split into groups to answer the following questions about slot gap information and give answers. The questions and answers were as followed:

Why does this slot gap exist?

- Lack of teachers
- Affordability
- other options (family, personal connections, at home parents)
- Home daycares, or family members available for childcare
- Family choice
- Finances
- Not enough space
- Transportation availability
- Lack of funds/allocation of funds
- Control of funding/slots



- Inequitable application process
- Income levels
- Property Taxes

List some barriers that prevent kids from getting a slot.

- EHS/HS: Financial, age, potty training, no disability, waitlist, age
- PFA/PFAE: no IEP, financial, waitlists, screening, not meeting financial criteria or being at risk of academic failure.
- PI: Limited workforce. Waitlists. Access to screenings.
- ECSE: Not having a documented IEP.
- EI: Have co-pays, better to use insurance. Long waitlists (months or longer). Political “who you know.” Assessments are limited due to long waitlists. Lack of therapists, not hitting 30% delay.
- CCAP: Long approval process, limited providers who accept CCAP. (Why do centers limit number of CCAP slots). Long payment. misaligned co-pay.
- Private Child Care: Potty training, no spaces open/lacking staff.

Does every child need a slot?

- No, but a higher level of availability/accessibility.
- Depends on the family and their situation/ needs.
- Aim to have slots for all children.
- Financial eligibility should not disqualify.
- Some level of support offered based on regional needs.
- Yes, a slot for each child. No problem having extra slots that go unused.
- Can use a referral process to ensure kids are not on waitlists.

What does quality care mean to you?

- Safety
- Curriculum
- Life skills
- Socialization
- Teacher ratios
- Physical space (cleanliness, outdoor area, adequate furniture, etc)
- Qualified/trained staff
- Hours of operation, extended shift workers, weekend coverage
- Workers fair wage
- Healthy meals



- Child has his/her needs met on all levels.
- Added supports in house-services provided.
- Special needs addressed and not isolated.

What is your experience with being on a waitlist?

- El waitlist since the day he was born until five months.
- Month or longer for therapists to become available.
- foster kids for Preschool- able to get “drafted” after 6 months due to sibling rule.
- Daycare centers not having space for newborns.
- Horrible calling each week.
- Poor communication.
- Worse during COVID.
- Long waitlists.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: One member from each group presented some of the answers to the large group.

Group presentation / discussion (10 minutes)

Notes: The Region 56 Team and the Family Council Members presented some of their answers to the rest of the group and had a small discussion.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Closing / Scheduling, and Questions (10 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team thanked the Family Council Members for attending the meeting and participating. The council members were asked to email their shirt sizes to the team so that Region 56 Team can provide them with Birth to Five Illinois shirts. The Regional 56 Team spun the wheel from the random name picker, Wheel of Names to receive a mystery prize! The winner for the prize was Victoria!

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps:



Next Meeting: Region 56 Team announced when the next meetings will be held.

Thursday, February 23th, 2023

12:30pm-2:00pm

Zoom

Guest Speaker: Cindy from Early Intervention

Thursday, March 9th, 2023

5:00pm-7:00pm

Zoom

Family Council Meeting

Follow-up/Next Steps: Region 56 explained how to have access to the Google slides / drive to add any information or questions as they arrive after the meeting and to be addressed for next meeting.