



MEETING NOTES

Region 56 Family Council Meeting

Location: Virtual - Zoom

Date & Time: February 23rd, 2023, at 12:30pm-2:00pm

Facilitators Present: Madalyn Snowden, Keven Kerr, Erica LoBurgio

Council Members Present:

- Laura Kimmel
- LaToya Johnson

Guest Speakers: Cindy Luzeniecki, Early Intervention

Council Members Absent:

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

Sign In & Goals (5 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 how to make an EI referral and general program.
- Discuss EI topics (waitlist, transition, etc.)

Experiential Aim:

- Connect Council members in conversation.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a



Early Intervention Presentation (40 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 invited guest speaker Cindy Luzeniecki from the Office of Early Intervention to present on Early Intervention. Cindy explained Early Intervention, their locations, the counties that they service, children ages that they serve, and what the program is and why it is needed. Cindy explained some information on EI:

- Early Intervention is a statewide program that provides supports and services for families to help their children under the age of 3 that meet developmental milestones.
- IDHS Office Locator. There are 25 locations throughout Illinois and each office services specific counties / zip codes.
- Early Intervention Services are physical, cognitive, communications, social emotional, adaptive, and audiological/nutritional.
- EI Referral. How the referral process works. The way the referral process works is: parent volunteer program, you or your doctor can make a referral call, meeting with service coordinator, a team composed of multidisciplinary professionals will assess the child's development, eligibility will be determined, and Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Determining Eligibility. The service coordinator will reach out to discuss concerns/paperwork and will meet with service providers to evaluate the child's eligibility. If eligible the family will work with a team to develop a plan, IFSP. Children residing in Illinois who are under three years of age, if a written evaluation reports completed by a multidisciplinary team can confirm the child's eligibility. If a child has a developmental delay, and the delay is 30% or greater in one or more of the areas of childhood development. If there is a physical or mental condition which typically results in developmental delay.
- Team members. EI brings in Service Coordinators which are the point of contact for EI, coordinates evaluations, helps families understand their role and legal rights in EI, assists team with development of IFSP, monthly contact with family, maintains case/services, and transitions out of EI. The parents are partners with the professionals in EI program to help their child have the best start. Multidisciplinary Team can be Developmental Therapists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, Social Workers, Nutritionists, Interpreter, and Hearing or Vision Specialists.
- EI Providers. Providers are EI credentialed and work for a company or independently, and they are contracted through our office and do not work



directly with EI. All providers are first trained in their area of specialty and then go on to become EI credential providers.

- Transition. The EI program ends for families when the child turns three years of age or if the parents voluntarily withdraw. The service coordinator begins the process at 2.6 years old, to ensure a family receives the appropriate services and supports. EI does provide extended services according to the birthday of the child and when they turn three years of age.
- Services are all provided in the natural environment, home or child care provider.
- EI is a parent voluntary program, parent choice for provider selection, and parent participates in therapy sessions.
- The cost for families of EI. EI program funds cover the costs of assessments to determine if a child qualifies. EI services are paid by health insurance or program funds. EI is available to everyone, regardless of income. Proof of immigration status is not required. Family fee is being waved up until June 30, 2023.

Decisions made n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Strengths, Needs, and Recommendations (40 minutes)

Notes: Family Council were asked to brainstorm / answer the following questions / concerns:

- Strengths
 - We have a strong, passionate, and educated workforce wanting to make changes and improvements to EI.
- Barriers
 - Transportation
 - Workforce
 - Waitlist(s)
 - Funding
- Needs
 - Huge gap with access to full day programming for children with IEPs, lack of support after half day program.
- Recommendations
- What was the impact of COVID?



Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Closing / Scheduling, and Questions (5 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 Team thanked the Family Council Members for attending the meeting and participating. Next meeting dates and reminders were offered during the meeting.

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

Thursday, March 9th, 2023

5:00pm-7:00pm, via Zoom

Family Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 30th, 2023

12:30pm-2:00pm, via Zoom

Family Council Resource Meeting

Deanna Hill, CCAP

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: 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.