



MEETING NOTES

Region 56 Family Council Meeting

Location: Virtual - Zoom

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

Facilitators Present: Madalyn Snowden, Keven Kerr, Erica LoBurgio

Council Members Present:

- Laura Kimmel
- Erika Ortiz Wassenaar
- Raquel Young
- Jessica Barclay
- LaToya Johnson
- Krista Escamillo
- Heather Ramirez
- Kara Jalowiec

Council Members Absent:

- Norma Romo
- Juanita Quezada
- Victoria Theodossopoulos

Sign In & Goals (5 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 asked the Family Council to sign in and introduced the goals for the meeting:

Rational Aims:

- Discuss Regional ECEC program and workforce landscape.

Experiential Aim:

- Connect Council members in conversation.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Updates (20 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 presented updates to the Family Council members:



- Did you receive your stipend check?
- Next payment closes May 2023

Family Council Forecast

- April Family Council meetings - Strengths/Needs/Recommendations
- May Family Council meetings - Finalize Regional Scan
- Does the scan represent our conversations, needs, barriers, strengths, and recommendations?
- Quick view of the Regional Scan

Decisions made n/a

Next Steps: n/a

ECEC Overview & Priority Populations (30 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 gave a short overview of ECEC and priority populations within our Region. Priority populations are presented as:

- Children of Teen Parents
- Children experiencing homelessness.
- Children in families in poverty or deep poverty
- Children/families with Department of Children and Family Services involvement
- Children with disabilities
- Children of migrant or seasonal workers
- Children in families with low caregiver education attainment
- Children in families that face barriers based on culture, language, and religion.
- Children of parent or legal guardian with disability
- Children/families with refugee or asylum status
- Children in families who face barriers due to immigration status.
- Children of parents incarcerated or involved with the Justice system.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Asset Maps Exploration Live (20 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 asked the Family Council to access the Region 56 - Asset Map (arcgis.com) and explore within our Region.

Region 56 team asked the Family Council members to answer two questions on the asset maps:



1. List observations you recognize about the ECEC map.
 - What are happening with communities that are in need, like Rockdale? Are they applying for grant funding, and are they being overlooked?
 - We have a large amount of child care deserts. There are a lot of areas that do not have any child care centers.
 - Is there any data on this map about these populations: Children/families with refugee or asylum status.
Children in families who face barriers due to immigration status.
2. How has your care needs changed over the course of having your little ones?
 - I reached out to the only location in our area about child care, and the center is currently on a waitlist for next year (Peotone).
 - No daycare options for daughter who utilizes a wheelchair so I am staying home and going back to school to be a teacher so I can accommodate.
 - You must take in consideration many centers staffing issues. If they don't have the staffing, they can't have the licensed children.
 - Noticed that there are slots available for siblings that are "grand fathered" in, but those slots aren't available for others who need the slots.
 - Noticed that there are still lotteries for preschool. However, if a student got in through the lottery system, they do not need to be in the lottery for the next year. Children should not be a number in a lottery system.
 - I've been in my home for 20 years and I was scared that one twin would get in and the other one wouldn't get in (Kindergarten lottery).
 - Unable to find care for the second half of the day, nontraditional, or outside of the typical workday / day care hours.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Break (7 minutes)

Workforce Discussion, Breakout Session, & Group Presentation (35 minutes)

Notes: Region 56 team explained to Family Council members about workforce.

"Region 56 team wants to hear your story! Many Family Council members have shared about their career journey. Many have changed since having children and are now



working from home/staying at home. You're invited to share! Anyone currently/was in the ECEC field?" Family Council members answered as:

- Different shifts being able to access care later in the day.
- Relying on family
- Pay is not great. Not required to have a lot of training. Left alone in a classroom under ratio. Not receiving support with children that have behavioral or special needs.
- Waiting period is long before you can find out if you're approved (CCAP process). At times the day care center will not acknowledge the family until there is an approval.
- CCAP is having staffing issues, which are adding to long turnaround times.
- Some day care centers require a lot of personal / financial information prior to attempting to enroll. A family may feel like there can be repercussions when giving sensitive information.
- Took time off to juggle EI and preschool and provide the best support for your child.
- COVID pushed people to work from home and wondering if CCAP will still pay.

Region 56 asked the Family Council members to answer a series of questions:

1. From your perspective, why is it difficult to keep staff in ECEC?
 - Pay – cannot compete with other industries.
 - Stress-position requires more.
 - Staff members must be passionate about their work.
 - Snowball effect: if there isn't a larger teacher to student ratio.
 - Lack of growth in most if not all programs
 - Mentally / physically exhausting.
 - Competitions from school Districts
 - Lack of training
 - High turnover rate of ECEC teachers / staff
2. In your opinion what is causing Early Childhood staff to leave/stay?
 - Low morale & low pay
 - Flexibility & burn out.
 - Lack of pay for extra endorsements.
 - More expertise required.
 - Under quite a bit of stress
 - Behavior issues that need to be addressed.
 - Training and lack of support for special needs and services.



- Maternity / paternity leave.
 - Ratios don't meet needs of kids or staff.
 - Parents are forced to go back to work right away after having children.
 - Lack of interaction.
 - Lacking benefits working for ECEC vs private corporation.
 - Directors are describing that centers are steppingstones for teachers to springboard into teaching within school districts.
3. Do you feel that your child is receiving quality care within their Early Childcare program?
- Poor operating hours that don't meet the needs including in school districts at times.
 - Quality care, but staff is limited which has resulted in a few situations where kids weren't properly monitored.
 - Poor pay equals poor investment from staff.
 - Lack of diversity within staff / teachers at ECEC.
 - Extra effort needed from staff to make sure that they accommodate all students.
 - Special needs inclusion.
 - Administration needs to be held accountable for diversity within the care centers.
 - Teachers that are in the centers are passionate about the children in their care.
4. What does the quality-of-care look like as it relates to diversity and needs?
- Lacking in diversity training for teachers / staff members.
 - Equitable representation for each population of teachers / students.
 - Access to college for potential teachers.
 - Access to assistance.
 - Mentorship programs to help people springboard into their respective professions.
 - Equitable treatment of students by teachers / staff members.
 - Training and materials based in different diversities / cultures.
 - Proper ratio to staff to children.
 - Safety.
 - Activity and tasks to stimulate learning and growth.



- Evidence based learning.
- Lesson planning.
- Inclusivity.
- Staff who share the same beliefs and values, who look like you and speak or support your home language.
- Adaptive resources for students with special needs.

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

Closing / Scheduling, & 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.

Wednesday, March 30th, 2023

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

Family Council Resource Meeting

Deanna Hill, Child Care Assistance Program

Thursday, April 13th, 2023

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

Family Council Meeting

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 the next meeting.