



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 56 Family Council Meeting

**Location:** Virtual - Zoom

**Date & Time:** April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Facilitators Present: Madalyn Snowden, Keven Kerr, Erica LoBurgio

#### Council Members Present:

- Laura Kimmel
- Krista Escamillo
- Heather Ramirez
- Juanita Quezada
- Takara Jalowiec
- LaToya Johnson
- Norma Romo
- Victoria Theodossopoulos

#### Council Members Absent:

- Erika Ortiz Wassenaar
- Raquel Young
- Jessica Barclay

#### **Sign In & Goals (5 minutes)**

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

Rational Aims:

- Edit Regional Needs Assessment
- Needs, strengths, and recommendations.

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:



#### Regional Needs Assessment Party

- Children and partners invited.
- KidsWork Children's Museum in Frankfort.
- Food, Play, and Connection.

#### Family Council Summer Schedule and Updates

- Family Stories
- Family Voice / Regional Needs Assessment / Gatherings.
- Do you want to stay on the Council?
- Share the Regional Needs Assessment.
- Help us recruit new members (in and outside of ECEC).
- Survey coming from the State Team about your experiences.

Decisions made n/a

Next Steps: n/a

#### **Regional Needs Assessment Recap (15 minutes)**

Notes: Region 56 gave a short overview of the Regional Needs Assessment. The recap was presented as:

- Demographics
- Local Collaborations
- ECEC Programs
- Slot Gaps
- Workforce
- Family / Caregiver Voice
- Strengths, needs, and recommendations

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

#### **Regional Needs Assessment Edits (25 minutes)**

Notes: Region 56 asked the Family Council to access the Regional Needs Assessment and add edits.

The Family Council was given a list:

- Enormous collaborative effort.



- Edits in the “comment” feature
  - Check understanding of graphs and charts.
  - Check to understand written paragraphs, and do you have all the information you need to understand acronyms and other languages?
  - What’s missing? Think BIG picture.
  - Any additional quotes that you can offer to beef up the family voice?

Decisions made: n/a

Next Steps: n/a

### **Strengths, Needs, and Recommendations (45 minutes)**

**Notes:** Region 56 team asked the Family Council to add the strengths, needs, and recommendations on our Google slides to start the conversation.

The Family Council added these in previous slides and were asked to elaborate or add on:

#### **How are families deciding on providers?**

- Proximity to work
- Cost / Price
- Cleanliness
- Trust

#### **When should you be aware of ECEC programs?**

- When the child turns one year old
- Pediatricians should give information.

#### **How can we reach those who may be isolated in the home and not in the community?**

- Offering transportation to the place
- Sending home learning kits
- Providing information about places they are already going to.
- Social media

#### **What is your experience with being on a waitlist?**

- Poor communication
- Horrible calling each week
- COVID shut down and services went to virtual
- Daycare centers not having space for newborns



Did COVID have an impact on your professional entities?

- Staff shortages
- Lack of enrollment
- Change in wages, cost of living increase
- Exodus of providers, educators in the field
- Lack of new professionals entering the profession

Are there any early child care providers missing from the list/map?

- Missing full-day providers
- Stay-at-home parents are not sure what programs are offered
- Families must rely on private care
- Family must rely on help from family, be a stay-at-home parent

Why is it difficult to keep staff in ECEC?

- Pay, overall, is very low. Cannot compete with other industries.
- Stressful job, mentally and physically exhausting.
- Lack of growth in most if not all programs. Lack of training.
- Burnout, lack of support for special needs and services.
- Ratios do not meet the needs of children or staff.

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 the next meeting as the End-of-the-Year-Celebration.

Decisions made: n/a

**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.