



Meeting Minutes

Region 17 Action Council Meeting

Date & Time: Wednesday, March 15, 5:30-7:30pm

Council Members present in person: Sam Farris

Council Members present online: Ashley Dowd, Debra Honegger, Kadi Juris, Miranda Lin, Kris Pennington, Maureen Sollars

Council Members absent: Molly Allen, Melissa Breeden, Kim Burton-Wernecke, Krissy Conklen, Judy Englebrecht, Lisa Hood, Kathleen Lorenz, DaWayne Morris, Sarah Shields, Dawn Wickenhauser, Pam Womack

5:30 - 5:45 Welcome/Icebreaker (15 minutes)

Facilitator: Carol Weisheit, Regional Council Manager

Notes:

- Welcomed everyone to the ninth meeting, reviewed Community Agreements and had an icebreaker activity of Spring rituals.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

5:45 – 5:50 Family Council Update (5 minutes)

Facilitator: Becky Thacker, Family and Community Engagement Specialist

Notes:

- Family Council eighth meeting update. Their personal stories, thoughts and needs have been shared, giving us much needed information for our report.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Family Council updates will continue to be shared.

5:50 - 7:00 Discussion of Parent, Families, Caregivers (70 minutes)

Facilitator: Carol Weisheit, Regional Council Manager

Materials: Power Point

Notes:

- Parent/Family/Caregiver Scenarios
 - Four different scenarios were given to the Council with a discussion about each. We addressed key issues/challenges, what they really connected with, and what resources might be available.
 - Many insights and ideas were shared and noted.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Utilize the reflections in the above responses in the Regional Scan.



7:00 - 7:15 Reflections (15 minutes)

Facilitator: Carol Weisheit, Regional Council Manager

Notes:

- The Council reflected on the process above and shared some insights including:
 - There's not one hub or place for parents to go to get answers and information that is reliable.
 - People need to see early childhood workers as essential.
 - Companies in other areas provide employees with resources for prenatal care; extra pay, books, parking spots, but parents here don't get what they deserve.
 - Every family has a story, we don't always know what is happening behind the scenes that we aren't aware of.
 - A real lack of knowledge around the value of EC and how important it is. Employers need to provide child care to get good employees, they don't see that as a value only a burden.
 - Feels like it's breaking from the inside out. All levels can't find teaching staff. The gap is huge and now there are fewer resources.
 - Where do parents go for resources? They have hotlines for suicide, etc., but where do parents go for support?
 - It's a necessity for all working families to have good quality child care. It's so hard to think about the amount of poor-quality care that exists.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Some of the above reflections will be noted in the Regional Scan.

7:15 - 7:30: Next Steps – Regional Scan (15 minutes)

Facilitator: Carol Weisheit, Regional Council Manager

Notes:

- Regional Scan & Next Steps
 - We will be putting out sections of the scan for the Council to review.
 - The state has been reviewing what we have written so far.
 - Next steps are to address the strengths and needs of the region at next meeting on April 5 & 19 (if needed)
 - May – address Council members' commitment for another year.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Will survey Action Council on availability for next years' service and for availability of gathering with Family Council.

Next Meeting:

Date: April 5, 2023

Time: 1:15-3:15pm