



MEETING NOTES

Region 19 Family Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 6:00-8:00pm

6:00pm: Welcome Family Council Members, Review of Family Council Community Agreement (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Welcome to Family Council members.
- Overview of today's meeting.
- Our Regional Scan has officially been renamed Needs Assessment by our Birth to Five Illinois State Team.
- Review of Family Council Community Agreement and Courageous Conversations.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:10pm: Reflection (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Family Council members and Region 19 team took a moment to honor Darby Pool and reflect on the impact she had on our community and families in DuPage County.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:20pm: DuPage Early Childhood Education and Care Regional Recommendations (90 minutes)

Notes:

- Family Council members reviewed Regional Strengths and Needs then followed with recommendations for the Region.
- Family Council members agreed on the following recommendations for Region 19. Additional recommendations can be found in Jamboard located in our Google Folder.
 - Having written and audio communications in the family's native language.



- Alternative certification programs for the ECEC workforce and more community knowledge of the workforce.
- Recruitment in every community to get a diverse workforce.
- Virtual and relevant opportunities for professional development.
- Benefits that reflect mental health support.
 - Reflective supervision
 - Free counseling
- Giving applicants an opportunity for employment based on experience, not just education.
- Adequate and additional funding in the ECEC system.
- An organization that can provide direction to families, no matter their needs.
- Eligibility requirements for families to get public assistance with ECEC programs are too low, services for middle-class families are needed too.
- Applications and paperwork given to families need to be simple and concrete.
- Services stop abruptly when children turn 3, there needs to be an exit strategy for families to be set up to succeed after services end.
 - Provide additional services.
 - Transitional Program.
- More coordination/ alignment within neighboring school districts.
- Make programs fittings for the community.
- Having strong advocacy for parents within the programs
- More consistent and welcoming parent engagement within school districts.
- Trying different approaches to get parents and caregivers involved.
 - Meeting parents where they are.
- More efficient marketing.
- Parent and caregiver education and awareness of services need to start from early on.
 - Provide knowledge of services in medical offices, community centers, or libraries.
- Additional input is always welcomed and can be emailed to Valerie, vvarju@birthtofiveil.com



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

7:50 pm: Timeline Review and Questions? (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Review of our upcoming months, May-September 2023.
- Our next meeting has been pushed back to May 16th.
 - During our next meeting we will review a draft of our Regional Needs Assessment.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps:

- During the month of June our Family Council Interest forms will reopen.
 - We ask if you are planning on transitioning out from our Family Council please contact Claudia, clangoni@birthtofiveil.com.
- During the summer months we will be sharing and decimating our findings with everyone in DuPage County including stakeholders, individuals outside of ECEC, legislators, etc.
- Addendums will be available to do to our Regional Needs Assessment.
- Family Council meetings will be held once a month during the summer months.
- In September we will relaunch our Councils, and review recommendations with a focus on planning and implementation.

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- Next meeting: Tuesday May 16th, 2023, 6:00-8:00pm