



Meeting Minutes

Region 1-B-D Cook North Family Council Meeting

Location: Virtual or in person

Date & Time: May 10th, 2023, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Family Council members present: Julie Center, Arisbet Figueroa, Safiyyah Hassan Wendy Mamola , Najma Nishat, Nancy Salvador, Betty Williams

Family Council members absent: Molly Mejia, Sharmishtha Goel, Lizz Merdinger, Charlotte Erickson

3:00 pm: Welcome/ Review of Community Agreements/ Regional Updates (15 minutes)

Icebreaker: “What is something fun you are looking forward to doing this summer?”

Notes: Irene welcomed everyone and thanked them for their flexibility to attend the Family Council meetings. Irene invited families to share something fun they are looking forward to doing in the summer. Answers included: Long Grove Strawberry Fest, pool, barbequing, traveling, gardening, and visiting the Golf Shores. Irene informed the Council members that an email, with a letter from the state director, Cicely Flemming and a link to a survey on year 1, will be sent out them.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

3:15 Regional Strengths/Needs (45 minutes)

Reflection Questions:

1. What strengths have you identified from your own experiences in the Cook North region?
2. What are the challenges facing the ECEC workforce in the region?
3. What barriers do parents/families/caregivers face with accessing early childhood care and education in the region?
4. Where are the other needs/opportunities for growth based on the data?
5. Where are the other needs/opportunities for growth?
6. What gaps still exist in the data? What questions did we want to answer but couldn't due to missing data?



7. Do families have access to the ECEC services and programs they need and want in Cook North? If not, why?

Google Document with Strengths and Needs will be presented based on meetings, Focus Groups, and Interviews

Notes: Irene invited the group to review the regional strengths and needs list that has also been shared with Action Council. The Family Council spent time discussing their top five selections for Regional strengths and needs/barriers.

Family Council members used the above reflection questions to guide their discussion.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

4:00 pm: Break (5minutes)

4:05 pm: Recommendations (35 minutes)

1. How can the regional Birth to Five Action and Family Councils support local collaboration efforts?
2. What are parent/family/caregiver preferences for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programs and services in your region?

*Share recommendation list from self-reflection and discuss categories and priorities *

Notes: Irene invited the Family Council members to discuss their Regional recommendations.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

4:40 pm: Regional Scan Review (18 minutes)

Review Collaborations Section/ECEC

Notes: Family Council members were invited to read and comment on and the collaboration and Early Childhood Education and Care and the Collaboration section of the Regional Needs Assessment.

Decision made: N/A



Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

4:58 pm: Questions/Comments/Reflections (2 minutes)

Notes: N/A

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

Next Meeting: TBD