



Meeting Minutes

Region 1-B-D Cook North Family Council Meeting

Location: Virtual or in person

Date & Time: March 15th, 2023, 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Family Council members present: Julie Center, Molly Mejia, Najma Nishat, Betty Williams, Sharmishtha Goel, Safiyyah Hassan

Family Council members absent: Lizz Merdinger, Arisbet Figueroa, Wendy Mamola, Charlotte Erickson, Nancy Salvador

12:30 pm: Welcome/ Review of Community Agreements/ Regional Updates (30 minutes)

Notes: Irene welcomed Family Council members and reviewed the agenda for today's meeting. She also reviewed the community agreements. Irene shared with the Family Council members that two people will be joining us, Bettye Cohns our Action Council member will share information about Evanston Cradle to Career and Dena Chapman, Family, and Community Engagement from the State team.

Icebreaker activity was shared. For International Women's Day the theme was "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories," Who comes to mind?

Family Council members shared: family friend with a powerful and inspiring story, teachers that daughters have had who promote social and emotional well-being, being a "mother"

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator(s): Irene Di Minervino

12:50 pm: Update from the Action Council & Regional Scan Review (40 minutes)

- 2 Small Group Discussions on Regional Scan
 - Demographics (15 minutes)
 - Slot Gap (15 minutes)

Notes: Family Council members shared that they felt the scan's slot gap and demographics information was representative of experiences they have had in the community. Questions and comments were marked in the shared google doc and will be reviewed by the regional team.



Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Ilinca Wallace

1:30 pm: Collaborations and Coalitions (30 minutes)

Notes: Bettye Cohns was welcomed and introduced Evanston Cradle to Career. To the Family Council members.

<http://evanstonc2c.org/>

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitators: Bettye Cohns

2:00 pm: Break (5 minutes)

2:05 pm: Collaborations and Coalitions (25 minutes)

Notes: Irene and Ilinca – shared presentations from the Action Council

- Jewish United Fund Early Childhood Collaborative <https://www.juf.org/guide/> (*Kate Warach*)
- Evanston Early Childhood Council <https://www.evanstonearlychildhood.org/>
- and Niles Township Early Childhood Alliance <https://www.nilestownshipeco.org/eca> (*Tina Vanderwarker*)
- United Palatine Coalition <https://www.upcoalition.org/> and Palatine Early Learning Alliance (Kristen Ford)
- Providers in Action (Vikki Podlipni)
- Early Intervention Coalition (Clare Giuffrida)
- The Alliance for Early Childhood <https://theallianceforec.org/>
- GoAeyc <https://goaeyc.org/>

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitators: Irene Di Minervino, Ilinca Wallace

2:25 pm: Presentations on Collaborations continued & Reflection Questions (1 minute)

Notes:

Questions for reflection:

1. Have you heard of these collaborations or coalitions prior to this meeting?



- a. What are your initial thoughts about what they do?
2. Are you aware of any collaborations or coalitions in your area?
3. Do local collaborations have programs/initiatives that specifically support priority populations (esp. refugee/recent immigrant families, those experiencing homelessness/the unhoused)? What do those look like?
4. Are there areas of the region where there are no community collaborations?
 - a. If there is no local collaboration: Are there areas that might be ready for a local collaboration? If so, what support might they need to begin? If not, then what needs to happen before a local collaboration can begin?
5. How does it connect with the broader North Cook community systems work?
6. What questions are unasked/unanswered about local collaborations in your region?
7. What questions should be asked of local collaboration leaders in our region?

Decision made: Next meeting will start with reflection questions.

Next Steps: N/A

2:26 pm: Questions/Comments/Reflections (4 minutes)

Notes: Irene asked the Family Council members for help with recruiting Dads for Focus Groups. One of the Family Council members asked a question about programming/curriculum at the libraries. Unsure how the curriculum is developed – Ilinca will follow up and do some research.

Decision made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Facilitator: Irene Di Minervino

Next Meeting: Monday, March 27th, 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm

Location: Virtual or in-person