



MEETING NOTES

Region 35 Action Council Meeting

Location: Ottawa, IL

Date & Time: 01/05/2023, 5:00-6:40pm

Council Members present: David Trenor, Sean Dergance, Elissa Barker, Kelsie Hardy, Molly Wiley, and Steffanie Maxwell

Council Members absent: Chris Bickel, Randi Paquette

Verbal Permission for recording requested

Agreed to by all Council in attendance

5:00pm Welcome & Introductions (10 min)

Re-Introduction of Birth to Five Illinois: Region 35 team and Family Council members to new Family Council members

5:10pm Ice Breaker-Bring a Family photo and be prepared to share (26 min)

Notes:

- Who is in the picture?
- How old are they?
- What are their likes and dislikes?

5:41pm What to expect in conversation about data PowerPoint (5 min)

Facilitator: Charlotte McWade

5:46pm PowerPoint on demographic data (28 min)

Notes:

- Region Population
- Poverty
- Working Families
- Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)



6:02pm Discussion (31 min)

Notes:

Based on this information provided, do you feel this data accurately represents our Region? Are there any pieces of data you feel are incorrect? How does this data affect you and your families and/or families around you?

Answers received from the Family Council:

- “I think the population is even lower because people are leaving the state and the poverty level is probably higher.”
- “Part-time care is often difficult to find.”
- “A lot of people do not want to work just to pay for daycare. They would rather have that time with their child and save the extra cost.”
- “Parents are choosing family and friends over daycares because of cost and trust.”
- “Small towns are impoverished, there are no new industries because it is cheaper to send jobs overseas.”
- “I have an Early Childhood Education background. I started looking for child care 1 year in advance only to find long waiting lists.”
- “We are a 2-income household, working in education and it is still a struggle. There are not a lot of options for child care centers and most home child care providers are filled.”
- “It is difficult to find resources as a parent. It is a process and if you do not have a partner to help, the opportunities are limited.”
- “Activities, programs, and outreach to help families is not common knowledge.”
- “Library events and outreach hours are during work hours. We need outreach activities and events in the area for working families too.”
- “In larger populations, we see more child care however rural areas lack options.”

6:33pm Wrap up and adjournment-Schedule Future meetings (7 min)

Notes:

- Guided members to “Share your Story” at Birth to Five Illinois. This included sharing our presentation screen to pull up what other families have shared.