



In partnership with

**DCCYC**

DeKalb County Collaborative  
for Young Children

## Notes

### Region 16 Family Council Meeting

**Location:** 2500 N. Annie Glidden Rd. DeKalb, IL 60115 and Zoom

**Date & Time:** Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM

**Present:** Gretchen Sprinkle, Samantha McDavid, Jaclyn, Olivia, Samantha B., Kurleisha, Kenyetta, Diana, Asheli

**Absent:** Courtney, Bridgette

#### **11:30am Introduction and Ice Breaker**

#### **11:45am Discussion of ECEC Workforce**

- **Job is difficult for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs)**
  - Pay is terrible, cannot afford to have their own children in child care so they can work
  - Centers not following rules puts educators at legal risk
  - Long hours, high stress levels, and frequent illnesses
  - Parent often blame teachers for things out of their control
- **ECEs stay because of passion**
  - Like working for children
  - Have a second income to rely on
  - Cannot afford to change careers
  - Some centers offer subsidized care for their own children
- **ECEs leave because of the pay**
  - Low pay
  - Cost of living to take care of their own kids, cannot afford to have 2+ kids in child care
- **Quality is still important**
  - Family care offers some high quality, trust, and no cost
  - Center care offers others assurance due to credentials
    - Some centers need more qualified staff
    - Some centers need staff with more patience
    - Some staff not adhering to rules
  - Expanded small groups and activities to other areas and towns would be ideal to support families
  - More educational activities to engage youngest children (under 3) and play groups for infants is desired

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- **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is complicated**
  - Families utilizing CCAP face discrimination from center staff
  - Centers that primarily accept CCAP have facilities in poor condition
  - CCAP requires a tremendous amount of paperwork that may be hard for families to access, lengthy process
  - Copays can be a barrier, especially if seeking a higher quality of care (more expensive care)
  - People who are unhoused have trouble applying for and qualifying for CCAP when a permanent address is required
  - It is difficult to understand the process before starting it
  - Due to late payments children turned away forcing parents to stay home from work
  - Nonworking families are not approved but cannot look for employment due to no child care
  - Long wait lists
  - Staff may show parents not accepting 4C more respect than those receiving it, feels discriminatory

### **12:15pm Discussion of Parent/Family Engagement**

- Having family able to watch child is helpful, provides a sense of security
- Being able to use CCAP for family care makes the situation easier and more beneficial
- Other resources in the community that are a big help include: church child care, BASICS DeKalb County, public libraries, homeschool co-op, health department
- CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents in School) Grant made it possible for a parent to stay in school and afford child care
- “CCAP is the only reason I could work as a single mom”

### **Families face sacrifices and barriers in regard to ECEC**

- One parent has to give up career due to the cost of child care
- Difficult to find care for children with disabilities both mental and physical. Affording quality care for children with disabilities and medical needs is nearly impossible
- Huge financial toll on families
  - “All but \$200 of [my] paycheck” went to the cost of child care. Driving to find that care was an additional cost with use of gasoline.
  - Families give up vacations, new items, “extras” to either afford care or when reduced to one income because they cannot afford care

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- Most centers do not have bilingual staff, making it difficult for parents to communicate with staff and teachers
- More than just “babysit” and provide educational content such as reading, puzzles, brain work
- Having a comprehensive list of resources where families frequent would be helpful
- More activities for other nearby towns in the county for littles

### **12:30pm Check Out & Next Meeting**

- Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> joint Action Council/Family Council Meeting
- Gretchen to send out questionnaire
- May bring children to next meeting

### **12:40pm Adjourn**

#### Upcoming Meetings:

Joint Action Council & Family Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00pm

2500 N. Annie Glidden Rd.

DeKalb, IL 60115

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