



MEETING NOTES

Region 16 Family Council Meeting

Location: Region 16 Office

Date & Time: April 11, 2023

Council Members present: Samantha McDavid, Gretchen Sprinkle, Samantha Balentyne, Courtney Walz, Diana Abraham, Olivia Adams, David

Council Members absent: Asheli Mann-Lofthouse, Kenyetta Jefferson, Kurleisha Phillips

1:00 pm: Strengths and Needs (20)

Notes: Strengths

- ELDC
- Select child care locations
- DCCG – potential CHEF center
- Basics
- FFA
- EI (Early Intervention)
- More locations
- More programs for ECE
- Free library – DKPL programs
- NIU

Notes: Needs

- Staff
- More and better communication
- Quality child care slots
- Grant opportunities for providers to lessen cost
- Transportation
- Space

“I love that we have a lot of free programming available via libraries and basics of DeKalb, etc. I'd love to see it expanded past the 0-5 age groups.”

“Disproportionate numbers were startling. I had no idea that not even half the kids in the county would have opportunities if needed.”



“I don't think there's really a way to lose when focusing on those points. So many kids would benefit from better dietary options alone.”

1:20pm: Recommendations (10)

Notes:

- Open more centers
- Teachers wearing masks
- More dietary options
- More education on disabilities
- Organizational collaboration
- More support for parents
- Wrap around services
- Summer care (programs)
- Free programming for kids
- NIU/high school help?
- Realistic threshold for CCAP
- More grants

“All of this stuff is life-changing for families”

“Absolutely. We're middle class. I can't afford child care so I watch kids from my home alone with my own, and that barely helps ends meet. But I try not to make it harder on another parent looking for good childcare. But to put 2 kids in full time daycare for me to go back to corporate work just isn't feasible.”

“Just the couple hours often don't fall into daycare normal hours and they cost a fortune.”

“It all comes down to money in the end but everyone needs to eat and take care of their families.”

1:30 pm: Final Recommendations (30)

- More grants & funding for wrap-around services, staff salaries, and lower tuition
 - Reduce competition
 - Support staff
 - Staff wages



- Subsidize child care across the board – flexible attendance
- Gap coverage & summer care programs

Follow-up/Next Steps: Meet at party, will be accessible via Zoom