



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 9 Family Council

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 12:00pm-2:00pm, 10:00am-12:00pm

Attendance:

Council Members present in person: January 21<sup>st</sup>- Stephanie Williams and Khadijah Visor

Council Members present virtually: January 17<sup>th</sup>-Stephanie Burnett, Julie Duvall, and Rita Conerly.

Council Members Absent: 0

Presenting and Zoom point: Jackie Charles and Caitlyn Scarbro

Present Jackie Charles

### **Welcome & Introductions & Review of Community Agreements (20 minutes)**

Notes:

Jackie Charles discussed the Goal and Aims for the meeting.

#### Review of Community Agreements

Presented the Community Agreements that everyone has agreed upon. Jackie Charles asked the council members if they wanted to add any new agreements. Council members did not want to add any new agreements.

Team Building: (10 minutes)

Question-Who do you think is the most underrepresented parent population in our region and why?

- The children who are not in school/daycare. The ones that are home with a family member. Children who have no access to the school district. Teen parents.



-Children with special needs. There seems to be no help for parents of children with special needs and information for help needs to be more accessible to parents.

### **Presentation of Data for Region 9 (30 minutes)**

Caitlyn Scarbro presented region 9 specific data. The data included definitions of:

- Publicly funded schools
- Privately funded schools
- License childcare centers
- Licensed-exempt childcare centers
- Head start and early head start programs
- Preschool expansion and preschool for all programs.

She also presented data that showed sites and site capacities in our region. Data was presented in the form of charts and maps. Caitlyn would take pauses in between to ask council members if they had any questions.

Council members commented that the data was saddening to see.

### **Break (5 min)**

### **Small Group Discussion (30 minutes)**

**Questions:**

- 1) **What are parents experiencing when trying to access high quality childcare in our region?**
- 2) **Do you see diversity in your childcare program staff and the children population?**
- 3) **What credentials are needed to become a lead teacher?**
- 4) **Are there opportunities to obtain these credentials in your current childcare program?**

**Question 1-What are parents experiencing when trying to access high quality childcare in our region?**

**Council Members had a robust discussion with the following quotes on this topic:**

- "I think one of the difficulties parents' faces is accessibility! Many don't know what their options are."



- "Affordability and availability at centers; some parents don't home daycare providers."
- "Most think the costs are too expensive and unaffordable and QUALITY educators are not teaching in EHS/HS classrooms. There is a need to push for increased pay and incentives for these teachers."
- "My daughter is 4 and there are not a lot of preschool options. In other places they will take her, but they do not offer a lot for school kids for the PreK setting."
- "Language is a barrier when looking for childcare. We cannot just assume that a child/family speaks English. Most teachers only speak English, and we cannot make that real connection with children because of this."

**Question 2-Do you see diversity in your current childcare program staff and children population?**

- "The child population at my child's center is pretty diverse, but the staff is not. I think that could change once the center is at capacity and there is a greater need for additional teachers. I agree with the need to push for increased pay and incentives for early childhood teachers".
- "Most centers are highly staffed by white, middle classed women, no men-unless they are cleaning".
- This brought up a discussion around centers not wanting to hire men in all open positions such as when one is responsible for changing diapers.
- The center we work in is pretty diverse. We do need more men but most men do not want to work with children and with the pay, they can not be head of their household.

**Question 3-What credentials are needed to become a lead teacher?**

The council agreed on needing an Associate degree to become lead teacher.

**Question 4-Are there opportunities to obtain these credentials?**

- "Most centers have opportunities but again-do teachers know about them?"



- "Our center has the CDA program that they offer but once you get it you have to work at the center for a year after."

**Large Group Discussion (30 minutes)**

**Let's Bring It All Together. How do you feel about this data?**

**The following discussion was had across the two Family Council meetings with five members in total.**

- "People need to get paid more. There also needs to be conversation around titles at the center level. Lead teachers only want to be lead so that they can boss around the assistants. Some centers take CCRS for all of the programs they offer but schools like Next Generation only takes CCRS for children until they turn 2, then they no longer accept it."

- "Things are expensive and when looking at who receives child care benefits from the states, it is not fair that you if you make just a little over, you do not qualify. Gas and food are expensive and that needs to be taken into consideration."

- "The parents that I serve tell me that most daycares have a long waiting list and even if they do get a spot, they can not afford the deposit to enter the center."

Council members agreed that things need to change because at the end of the day, the children are the ones that these decisions affect.

**Next Family Council Meetings-**

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. 12pm-2pm & February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 10am-12pm