



Region 17 Family Council Meeting

Location: Bloomington, IL or Zoom

Date & Time: Tuesday, August 15th 5:00-6:30pm

Attendances:

Online: Clymeshia Nelson, Kelly Rhodes, Lakeesha Smith, and Alesia (Anna) Smith

In person: Jacqueline Sweat

Absent: Teresa Cornejo, Ashley Giebelhausen

5:00 Welcome & Review of Family Council Agreements

Facilitators: Carol Weisheit, Becky Thacker, Martha Saldana Cortes

- Welcomed to the second summer meeting.
- Showed the infographic.

5:05 Icebreaker: What was your favorite thing you and your family did this summer?

Facilitator(s): Becky Thacker, Family and Community Engagement Specialist

- Members discussed their summer adventures with the group.

5:15 Regional Needs Assessment LAUCHED!! Thoughts and Feedback

Facilitator(s): Becky Thacker & Carol Weisheit

- Placed Regional Needs Assessment link in the chat.
- Exploring the possibility of getting some printed donated copies of the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment.
- Input from the Family Council and Action Council made this RNA possible.
- Next year work on an Action plan will be undertaken.
- Discussed upcoming meetings and the dissemination plan.
- Staff answered questions proposed about what feedback received from people after presenting the RNA. Audiences have been very supportive.
- During a recent Regional Council Manager meeting an individual from the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), shared how pleased IDHS was about the quality of all Regional reports.
- Informed that an addendum will be created at the end of the summer to capture any missing information.
- Staff visiting smaller towns talking with families about Regional Needs Assessment and looking for additional Family Councils members.



6:00 Reflection on Year One

Facilitator(s): Becky Thacker, Family and Community Engagement Specialist

- Members shared their appreciation of the space created during the Family Meetings and expressed willingness to keep participating because of that. Commented that it is safe zone where it is possible to talk about race and culture without pointing to anybody. Also shared the feeling that their voice is respected, valued, and appreciated. Reflected that in the world, the black voice is sometimes felt underappreciated but not here, it is welcomed.
- Encouraged members to join our Facebook pages and share with others.
- Encouraged members to get in contact with staff if they know someone who might be interested in becoming a Family Council member.

6:20 Updates/Schedule meetings for next month

Facilitator(s): Becky Thacker, Family and Community Engagement Specialist

- New day for meeting: Survey to determine what day might be best to meet for next year. Suggested Wednesdays or Thursdays and looked at September 20th or 27th with the same time as past meetings. All who attended said Wednesdays would work for them.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 27th

Time: 5:00-6:30pm

Location: Office/Zoom