



Family Council All Member Meeting

Action Council Members

Date: October 25, 2023

Attendees

Council members present: Ana De La Luz, Kaylee Peters, Jen DeShasier, Natalalee Contreras, Fernando Aceves, Maria Salazar, Brittany Nielsen, Laura Rosales Celia Padilla, Elina Gabaculine, Dane Cruz, Maria Pizano, and Pankti Jani.

Council members absent: Luisa F Alfaro, Yoselin Martinez, Katia Lezama, and Martha Campos. Padilla.

Agenda

I. **Introductions**

II. **Icebreaker**

III. **Action and Implementation Plan:**

Notes: An overview was provided to discuss how the Action Plan will be used during Year Two. Family Council members were given a list of recommendations made for the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment. As a council, we will decide what 2-3 recommendations to work on.

IV. **Recommendation: Create a centralized hub for resources and services**

Notes: A recommendation was made based on feedback from families and providers during the Regional Needs Assessment process.

Why was the recommendation made?

- Make it easier for parents and families to find Early Education Programs and Services.
- Improve Awareness of current programs (along with contact information).
- There are so many resources and different programs it will be helpful to know if they are funded by the state and/or private funding.
- Allows us to take everyone's knowledge and collect it together in one space. (One Stop Shop for all information.
- If we want to improve services, we need to know where they are currently located.
- Easier to get feedback from parents and providers (Surveys and Interviews).
- Important to have a comprehensive list to ensure services are not duplicated.



What data supports the recommendation?

Below are some of the great sources to help spread data:

- Libraries, clinics, boy's and girl's clubs, schools, faith places, field houses, festivals, and public events where lots of families visit.
- All the information should be available online for families that are new to the area.
- Social media and parents are great platforms to spread the information out.

What are the goals that must be achieved to implement this recommendation?

- By collecting and spreading more and more information out with the community like programs here with Birth to Five Illinois, resources, and awareness to meet the goals.
- Find all the resources, providers, and services that are available for children.
- People received information and more voices from community members.
- By doing lots of surveys within the region to see if this recommendation is needed.
- By sharing the testimonials of community members who had already received help and how they utilized it.
- By gathering all the information from daycares within the time frame of six months.
- By creating flyers to send out information to community members.

What are the SMART goals that must be achieved to implement this recommendation?

- Identify someone to create and maintain the website with an automated reminder system set up for updated information from providers and set rules for the website.
- Create a social media page, or a different website like Weebly or Google and keep it updated.
- Need someone to contact Child Care programs and let them know about the new website and new opportunity.
- Allow directors and Child Care programs to share information about enrollment and job openings on the new website.

What are the anticipated risks/barriers to achieving the goals?

- We need a physical space to go where parents and families need help outside DCFS as single parents and grandparents would prefer to visit in person.
- Accurate information needs to be spread out.
- Language barrier, we need bilingual staff.

What are some proposed solutions to the anticipated risks/barriers?

- Create a centralized system for enrollment.
- By asking community members ahead of time what language they prefer and making sure we have bilingual staff with languages they speak next to their names.

Are there any community groups, agencies, organizations, or individuals working on similar or related goals/recommendations?

- Early Education Care with HACES has something like helping the children.



V. Stipend Information

Before next meeting...

- Keep an eye out for the emailed survey link for November Family Council meeting date.