



Family Council Member Meeting.

Date: October 11, 2023, 6:00pm-7:30pm.

Attendees.

Council members present: Anita Frei, Folanda James, Kristin McGraw, Christina Erwin, Andrea Santos, Megan Crookham, C'Ante Morris, Gary Craig, Claudia Mercado, Indirea Slaughter.

Agenda.

1. Introductions.
2. Icebreaker.
3. Group agreements.
4. Action Plan.
5. CQI.
6. Review chosen recommendations.
7. Recommendation 1.

Notes: Recommendation – Raise awareness of child care programs that provide an inclusive environment for children with special needs. Many families in Region 48 have reported that it was difficult to find child care that met their children's special needs. There is no additional funding for child care centers to help cover the extra staffing cost it may take to care for a child with special needs. A special education advocate could help with this recommendation. It's important to get information into the hands of families. The Council suggested we compile a list of child care facilities with good reputations known for providing care to children with special needs. To compile this list, we can reach out to organizations and programs for resources. We can create Google forms to collect data from child care centers, ECEC professionals and staff, and families. Some potential risks or barriers include emotional bias from staff or families or false data. Another barrier could be a lack of cooperation from organizations and agencies. Local or state organizations, agencies, and individuals needed at the table may include mental health consultants, DCFS, ISBE, IDHS, CCR&R, EI therapists, child care staff, and parent advocates. We could connect with Family Matters Illinois, a state-funded advocacy program, to provide background knowledge.

Before next meeting...

- Think of additional answers to the questions we discussed regarding Recommendation 1.
- Consider questions to add to a Google form for parents, ECE staff, and ECE providers.
- Determine if there is anyone who should be included at an upcoming meeting.