



## Family Council Meeting #6

Family Council Members Present: Azucena Galvez, Cindy Albor, Juana Avila, Monique Griffith, Heather Stokes, Roxanna Avila.

Date: January 9th, 2024, 5:00pm-7:00pm

### Agenda

1. Welcome.
2. Interpretation Services.
3. Meeting Essentials.
4. Group agreements.
5. Agenda.
6. Icebreaker (Word Cloud Activity).
7. Updates.
  - a. Notes: The FACE Specialist shared with the Family Council that Tonya Freshener, Region 21 RCM, has joined the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Education and Care Transition Advisory Committee. Their position on the committee will allow them to inform and provide feedback to the State during the transition to the unified agency, Smart Start.
  - b. Note: The FACE Specialists provided the link to Region 21's website and shared an invitation to the IDHS-Division of Early Childhood Town Hall.
8. Work in progress.
  - a. Note: The FACE Specialist informed the Family Council that State Team Members reviewed the Action Plan, and they provided feedback to review the goals and tailor them to local-level efforts.
9. Action Plan.
  - a. Note: The FACE Specialist discussed the Action plan as a blueprint of the work completed in Region 1-B-B.
  - b. Note: The FACE Specialist spoke about the goals and how they can be reached.
  - c. Note: The FACE Specialist informed the Family Council that the feedback for the goals was positive but required tailoring for local implementation.
  - d. Note: The FACE Specialist reviewed the work and the feedback from the Action Council meeting with the Family Council Members.
  - e. Note: The FACE Specialist encouraged the group to reflect on the SMART goals.
    - i. A Council member provided feedback on receiving aid and completing the Illinois Action for Children application.
    - ii. The FACE Specialist provided questions to guide the Family Council through the review process.



1. IDHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) information can be challenging to access since it can be found through a different website.
  2. What do you hear from your neighbor regarding these questions that would be most valuable to look at?
  3. Who will be responsible for leading these efforts?
  4. Do they do this already and do it enough?
  5. Should the next step be to advocate for an organization to take this one?
- iii. Investigation and Recommendation.
1. Note: The FACE Specialist discussed the low reimbursement rates for child care providers.
  2. Note: Review SMART goals through a series of questions.
    - a. Who will be responsible for leading?
    - b. Is this already happening?
    - c. Do they need additional support at the regional level?
    - d. Why/if we should do it if another is already doing it?
  3. Note: The FACE Specialist informed the Family Council that there will be an attempt to review the goals with Chris Tokarski to get further input.
10. Next Steps.
- a. Note: The FACE Specialist informed the Family Council that the goals and the steps may change based on feedback from the review.
  - b. Note: The FACE Specialist provided the deadline for the Action Plan.
11. Deliverables.
- a. Note: The FACE Specialist shared the IDHS Deliverables with the Family Council.
    - i. Look at Mental Health Data to identify gaps.
    - ii. Focus Groups/Interviews.
    - iii. Complete the Mental and Behavioral Health Needs Assessment.
    - iv. The meeting Structure (starting in February) will change to two monthly meetings per Council, no more workgroups.
  - b. Note: The FACE Specialist discussed what is to be expected.
    - i. Mental health can be a difficult conversation to have.
    - ii. Reminder to share and/or complete the Mental and Behavioral Health Survey be completed.
12. What have we done?
- a. Note: The FACE Specialist informed the Council that there has been a meeting with Deborah Chalmers, Director of Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, and the Program Managers for our Region.
    - i. Mental Health Consultant search through Gateways Registry.



- ii. The team has reached out to the school districts in Region 1-B-B.
  - iii. Connected with Pediatricians.
  - iv. INCCRRA's support and partnership.
13. Resources.
  - a. Notes: The FACE Specialist provided links to the Governor's Office Early Childhood Education and Care Transition Advisory Committee and the Mental Health Google Document.
14. Reminder.
  - a. Notes: The FACE Specialist asked the Council Members to complete the survey if they have not and share the Mental Health survey with others.
15. Q&A.
  - a. Note: No questions at this time.
  - b. Notes: The FACE Specialist provided a poll with the new February to June Family Council meeting dates.

### **Before next meeting...**

- Attend a workgroup meeting and be ready to participate!
- Think about potential guest speakers to attend meetings.
- Complete the Mental and Behavioral Health Survey.