



MEETING NOTES

Region 12 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: Monday, February 6, 2023, 12:00pm

Staff present: Donna Rardin, Sophie Kershaw-Patilla, Ann Oswalt
Council Members present: Charity Bailey, Cassi Fiscus, Sandra Hyde
Council Members absent: Melinda Evans, Sara Farmer, Brandi Foster, Karyssa Garcia, Emily Gullet, Sara Adams, Whisper Shick, April Walls

12:00 Welcome and Introductions (14 minutes)

Notes: Donna welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a brief introduction from Council members and Region 12 staff, including name, where they live, what they do, and family dynamics. Donna and Ann shared a brief overview of Birth to Five Illinois, the work of Region 12, and role of the Family Council.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

12:14 Family Council Meeting Recap & Discussion (4 minutes)

Notes: Donna provided an overview of what was discussed during previous Family Council meetings, which focused on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programs and services.

- Family Council participants shared more information about their family background and experience(s) with ECEC in this Region.
- Barriers that are mentioned most include mental health services, special services, transportation, and child care availability.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

12:18 Regional Scan Update (3 minutes)

Notes: Ann provided a brief description of the Regional Scan and the process of gathering and compiling information and stories from Region 12.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



12:21 What does quality/good care look like to you? (38 minutes)

Notes: Donna asked all participants to describe their ideal vision for ECEC services and programs. Some suggestions include:

- Access (and timely access) to pediatric medical, dental, and mental health providers
- Quick access to behavioral health care
- Local access to quality behavioral health care (including counselors, therapists, psychologists, and psychiatrists)
 - Suggestion: Local screening to determine appropriate service/provider could help streamline the referral process
- Wider acceptance of the Illinois Medical Card
 - Suggestion: Have a grant or other funding available to cover local/regional services that would otherwise be denied or referred elsewhere
- Wider local/regional access to quality care (in state), even with medical insurance
- Access to transportation for all programs and services
- Gas cards to help with transportation costs
- Assistance for travel to long-distance appointments: child care for other family members (either near home or near appointment; especially facing guest limitations at doctor's offices), meals, lodging, etc.
- Access to quality, affordable child care
- Communication of services and programs that are available
- Remove delays in medical care, specifically when seeking care from specialists
- Support for accessing telehealth appointments/services
- Family supports for when a family member is receiving specialized services

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: The Family Council Interest Form is now closed. If anyone else is interested in sharing their voice, they may reach out to [Donna](#) or [Ann](#) to schedule an Interview or [share their story online](#).

Next Meeting: February 20, 2023

Time: 4:30pm

Location: Virtual