



MEETING NOTES

Region 12 Family Council Meeting

Monday, March 20, 2023, 4:30pm

Staff present: Donna Rardin, Ann Oswalt, Sophie Kershaw-Patilla

Council Members present: Sarah Adams, Charity Bailey, Melinda Evans, Emily Gullet, April Walls

Council Members absent: Sara Farmer, Cassi Fiscus, Brandi Foster, Karyssa Garcia, Sandra Hyde, Whisper Shick

4:30 Welcome, Introductions, and Icebreaker (11 minutes)

Notes: Donna welcomed everyone to the meeting. Each participant was asked to provide a brief introduction and tell one thing that they would like to see added to their community.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:41 Family Council Meeting Recap (4 minutes)

Notes: Donna provided an overview of what was discussed during the previous Family Council meeting, including the Regional Scan update and poverty in our Region.

- Participants discussed how mental health is a cause/effect of poverty.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

4:45 Action Council Update and Regional Scan Feedback (59 minutes)

Notes: Ann shared a summary of Action Council meetings and discussions. She then shared a status update on the Regional Scan, including how family voice is being incorporated throughout and feedback received during previous Council meetings.

Ann then reviewed the current sections of the Regional Scan and asked for feedback regarding strengths and needs for each, so recommendations may be defined. Council members shared their perspectives from within their own communities.

- Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programs and services – greatest needs are spots and transportation; greatest strength is quality.
- Slot Gap – greatest needs are English as a Second Language (ESL) and knowledge/understanding of program and service eligibility/qualifications.



- Workforce – greatest need is more staff, particularly substitutes; greatest strength is quality.

Ann created a list of the suggested recommendations and asked members to elaborate on how they feel the needs may be addressed. Participants noted the following:

- Funding for programs and services, as well as for employee pay and initial/ongoing training and certification would be integral to recruiting and growing the ECEC workforce.
- Mental health coursework and training for employees (including expanding college coursework) and mental health screenings/programming for ECEC programs and services.
- Transportation to and from ECEC facilities.
- Wrap-around care to fill the schedule gaps for working families.

Donna wrapped up the discussion by asking Council members what has been helpful in making ECEC work for them and their families.

Decisions Made: N/A

Next Steps: Donna asked Council members to continue thinking about ECEC strengths and needs and to email any more recommendations to a Region 12 team member. Donna also noted that there will be a grandparent Focus Group on March 28 and asked for participant suggestions.

Next Meeting: April 3, 2023

Time: 4:00pm

Location: Virtual joint meeting with Region 12 Action and Family Councils