



## Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: November 2, 2023, 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

### Notes

6:00pm: Welcome and Updates (10 minutes).

Notes:

- Council members were asked to start preparing for our discussions surrounding the mental and behavioral landscape in Region 19. In preparation, we will start to compile a list of services and public reports.
- The first round of Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment Addendums are now available on the Birth to Five Illinois website.
  - Region 19's Addendum includes additional input regarding transportation and healthcare access.
- Valerie Varju, Region Council Manager shared highlights from her recent trip to Springfield, visiting with several local elected officials during the fall veto session.
- Claudia Langoni, Family and Community Engagement Specialist spoke with the members about the opportunity participate in PLAT.

6:10pm: Workgroup Overviews and Updates (20 minutes).

Notes:

- A brief overview was provided detailing how the recommendations and subsequent workgroups were determined.
- Valerie Varju, Region Council Manager presented the target problem assigned to each workgroup and the recommendations considered during each workgroup's first meeting.
- Based on the discussions within the separate workgroups, four patterns and common themes emerged.
  - A need for public awareness and family/caregiver education.
  - A need for comprehensive professional development for both the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) workforce, but also various community members that work with families.
  - A need for mental health supports for everyone, including but not limited to young children, their families, and the ECEC workforce.
  - In order to achieve long-term, sustainable change there needs to be advocacy efforts aimed at the state level.

6:30pm: Workgroup Discussion (70 minutes).

Notes:

- Family Council members brought forth additional suggestions to address each workgroup's recommendations.



3:40pm: Next Steps (5 minutes).

Notes:

- Council members were asked to assist the workgroups with the planning process by adding their input on the Jamboard, including identifying the following for each:
  - Action steps/solutions.
  - Risks, challenges, and barriers.
  - Potential Partners.
- If Family Council members have not signed up to participate in one of the three workgroups and are interested, they can contact Valerie directly.
- Emails will be sent by the end of the week to schedule the November, December, and January workgroup meetings. The input from the full Action Council will be shared with each workgroup for consideration during their next meeting.

**Next meeting:** Full Family Council Meeting: Thursday, January 25, 6:00 to 8:00 pm.