



## Family Council All Member Meeting

Family Council Members

Date: February 12, 2023

### Attendees

Council members present: Cassie, Alice, Brittany, Brandy, Kim

Council members absent: Kelsey, Fawn, Alicia, Bethany, Sandra

### Notes:

- Reviewed group agreements
- Reviewed preferred language
- Intro to mental and behavioral health
  - Reviewed data for Region 3
- What is available and what is missing?
  - How many of these providers will go out to child care centers?
  - How many of the 173 mental health providers see children?
    - How many accept Medicaid or Youth in Care?
  - How many of these providers are affordable to families at or below the poverty line?
  - Should therapy or therapists be included? Occupational, speech, etc. that work with children in our Region. This affects children's mental and behavioral health.
  - Provider locations
    - What barriers exist in seeking mental and behavioral health services?
      - Transportation, time availability for working parents/guardians, insurance obstacles
      - Number of pediatricians may not be correct for Effingham Co – lists one pediatrician but Google lists more
        - Board certified pediatricians are only included the data provided
          - Fayette Co numbers look incorrect as well
    - Who is missing out on services due to existing barriers?
      - Homeschooled kids aren't getting the same resources that kids attending public school kids are
  - Referral Processes
    - What is the referral process like for families?
      - "EI referred by our pediatrician in Effingham, was life-changing and so amazing! I hope it's as accessible as it seemed to be for us."



- Providers tend to “wait and see” and if they just referred the child when it was needed, there wouldn’t be such a clog when kids age out of EI
- “we waited around 1 month/2-3 months speech therapy. 1 month for the under 3 program, 2-3 for school-age.”
- How do the travel times impact families and children?
  - “Traveling too far out of town can create a lot of barriers that parents might not be able to overcome. Every time I get referred out it is usually a 30-minute to an hour-plus drive.”
  - “Luckily everything was in-home for us, but a referral was made for a specialist all the way in St. Louis. Luckily we have the resources personally, but I can see this being a huge concern for some.”
    - “We have still not been contacted or seen by the St. Louis referral and we got that over a year ago.”
  - “For families with multiple children, the greater travel time creates challenges, especially when the appointments are at different locations.”

### Before next meeting...

- Send follow up email with notes, next meeting reminders, and any extra reminders as need day after meeting (Tuesday)
- Send those unable to attend the presentation and questions for their voice.