



## MEETING NOTES

### Region 34 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: 03/22/23 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Council Members present: Dane Cruz, Maria Pizano, Pankti Jani, Kaylee Peters, Brittany Nielsen, Jen Johnson, Martha Campos, Luisa Alfaro, Ana De La Luz, Yoselin Martinez, and Maria Salazar.

Council Members Absent: Elina Gabaculine, Laura Rosales, Fernando Aceves, Katia Lezama, and Tirzah Jones

#### 7:00 PM: Welcome and Introductions (10 min)

Facilitator (s): Maria Pizano

#### 7:10 PM: Ice Breaker (10 min)

Facilitator (s): Maria Pizano

#### 7:20 PM: Family Engagement Questions (30min)

Notes: Presentation given by Maria Pizano

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### Notes: What are your experiences with access to Early Childhood Education and Care in the Region?

- It is hard to find a daycare that really cares for the children,
- The process would be easier for parents if we had interpreters when we need help,
- Daycares for kids with special needs are needed,
- Full daycares/Head Start free programs are needed,
- Tuition-free programs are hard to find for parents,
- Some parents worked at a daycare and then decided to have kids and daycare for employees is free,
- Parents volunteered at Head Start to help get CDA,
- It is hard for parents with the process of getting children to enroll when they speak other languages,
- When parents find the right programs, they like to work with them.



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Why it is important to include this information in the scan?**

This is where it is vital, we hear what IS working and what is NOT working for the families when it comes to ECEC systems and why you feel it is important these issues get addressed.

- Tuition-based programs are limited for low-income families,
- Hours for childcare are very important for parents,
- Parents need more help with enrolling their kids into programs in the Lake County Region,
- Parents are looking for more options for childcare.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **What sacrifices or decisions has your family made surrounding these issues?**

- Children are lacking social and emotional attachment,
- Parents are unable to spend a lot of time with children as they are working second or third shifts or weekends to save childcare expenses,
- Many parents are decided to stay home instead of paying for the majority part of their earing to childcare,
- Cost for multiple kids is more,
- Parents are working different shifts like early morning or late night, so they do not have a lot of time for family time,
- Parents had to take a pay cut to work in the ECEC field which lead to free childcare for employees,
- Childcare providers feel stuck in the ECEC field, and they prefer free childcare over a pay increase,
- Children forfeit extracurricular activities,
- It is hard for families to make a choice pay for daycare or take a family vacation.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **How many children are reaching out on behalf of their parents due to language barriers, translating for their parents to deliver or receive a message?**



- Children should not have to translate for their parents due to language barriers, schools should always have someone, especially in a language like Spanish.
- Sometimes children are not able to translate the way it should and get the ideas across,
- Some schools would not allow children to be interpreters for their parents.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **How long does it take to have a message delivered or a call returned if not a native English speaker?**

- For the Waukegan school district, it takes more than 4 weeks to have a message delivered or a call returned if not a native English speaker,
- Most of the time parents have a hard time just reaching someone to take a message in Spanish and get over to the concerned person.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Do families have access to the ECEC services and programs they need and want in our Region? If not, why?**

- Not enough room in the centers and ECEE services and programs have a long waitlist,
- There are limited bilingual programs,
- Head Start programs use income qualifications to get access to services,
- Most of the programs go based on income,
- Helpers/Daycare staff are not getting paid a lot so there is always a shortage of staff due to money,
- Families do not have enough access,
- Transportation to and from programs is very difficult for working parents.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**7:50 PM: Review of all previous Family Council Meetings (60min)**

Notes: Presentation given by Maria Pizano

Notes: **Regional Community Development Demographic Landscape**



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**Notes: Reviewed Information on-Household Median incomes**

- Lake County is a tale of 2 different Counties,
- Zion has a high number of Risk Factors accompanying their lower-income households,
- Majority of the Public Transportation is in Low Poverty Areas (does not cover all areas),
- Highland Park has inequities when looking at income,
- The large brown (northern part of the income map on IECAM) areas have farmland included,

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**Notes: Reviewed Information Regarding the Number of children under 6 years old**

- 50,660 total children (23,865 0-2 yrs.) (26,795 3-5 yrs.)
- Thought we had more children in Lake County,
- The places with low median income are where we have more kids,
- What are the sources of the data?
- The total number is important but, more important, is the number of children whose needs are not being met.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**Notes: Reviewed Information Regarding Distribution of Racial/Ethnic by Year**

- Race and Ethnicity are counted together; however, both should be counted separately,
- The number of non-Hispanic is surprising, I thought it would be lower,
- Race/Ethnicity should be self-selected (there were reported instances of race/ethnicity being assumed by agencies),
- Sometimes people assume a different race,
- Not surprised by the population breakdown,
- There are other ethnicities not counted in areas.
- Data surprised that the black population is lower.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



Notes: **Reviewed Map that showed the location of different Racial/Ethnic Families**

- Hispanic population living in a lower-income area,
- Thought we had a higher concentration of Hispanic population,
- I like this map that shows the different concentrations of ethnic families,
- Data represented is not surprising,
- There are other ethnicities counted in areas.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Reviewed Information about languages spoken other than English and Spanish**

- Languages other than English and Spanish spoken in Lake County are -: Mandarin, Hindi, Cantonese, Hebrew, Sign Language, Tagalog, Korean, Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, Punjabi, Slavic Languages, Tribal Languages (African), and Arabic.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Why it is important to include Demographics information in the Regional Scan?**

- We must be fiscally responsible and know where the funds should go,
- It gives us an idea of the type/level of resources we need to support our population,
- It helps to plan for the future,
- We can see the correction between needs,
- It paints the picture of reality,
- It gives an idea of where to hold ourselves accountable (holding equity),
- When we know better, we can do better,
- It gives an idea of household income and where the children are,
- We can identify where should the resources go and access to quality and cost healthcare.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



**Notes: Review Program and Services & Slot Gap information**

- FACE specialist gave an overview and differences between Licensed Child Care Centers, License Exempt Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Centers, Prevention Initiatives, Early Head Start, Preschool for All, and Preschool for All Expansion.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**Notes: License Child Care Centers and License-Exempt Child Care Centers**

- The difference between licenses and licenses exempt- do not get the same payment from the state, depends on the number of children served and square footage, different requirements,
- Safety is the same requirement for both programs. Fire inspection is required for all programs,
- A license requires staff to have more credentials.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**Notes: Family Child Care Home**

- There are two different types of home licenses: -Individual and Group licenses, Group license requires the owner and substitutes to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) or college credit,
- Depending on the center's square footage, a license might be required.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**Notes: Preschool for All (PFA) And Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE)**

- PFA can be a full day or half day.?
- Fox Lake- half-day and full-day programs,
- Priority is given to at-risk families that score high on the risk assessment or score lower on the developmental screener.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**Notes: Head Start (HS): 3–5-year-old and Early Head Start**

- HS can serve children 130% below the Federal Poverty Line (FPL).



Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Local or Regional Programs or Funding sources that support ECEC service**

- Home Visiting Program,
- Baby Talk Program running in Waukegan,
- Programs offered by Park districts,
- College of Lake County provides support and advising/navigates Gateways,
- Training on mental health and kids with special needs,
- Early Childhood Coalition gives free training to members,
- Early Childhood network with the center to open from step1,
- Spread vision of no wrong door,
- YWCA Navigation promotes education and free scholarships,
- College of Lake County and Child Development Associate is giving elective credits if working toward an AA degree,
- Train staff in referrals and if programmers do not offer those services they can guide where to go to have referrals available.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Viewed Asset Map with Locations of Day Care Home, Day Care Centers, and Group Day Care Home**

- Home daycares are more around the Round Lake area,
- Lot more daycares in the Waukegan area,
- More daycares are found in the area where the more Hispanic population is living,
- Numbers of Daycares are more in North Chicago and Waukegan area while compared with other areas of Lake County,
- It has some pockets on the other sides too,
- There are a few daycares around Lake Zurich and the Wauconda area.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Income Breakdown for IDHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)**

- Family of 2- Max Monthly Income \$3,433
- Family of 3- Max Monthly Income \$4,318



- Family of 4- Max Monthly Income \$5,203
- Family of 5- Max Monthly Income \$6,088
- Family of 6- Max Monthly Income \$6,973
- Family of 7- Max Monthly Income \$7,858
- Family of 8- Max Monthly Income \$8,743
- Family of 9- Max Monthly Income \$9,628
- Family of 10- Max Monthly Income \$10,421
- 6,250 children being served currently,
- Childcare is not affordable without CCAP.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Average cost of childcare provider in Illinois is \$16.08 per hour**

- Daycare should be free for all. So, our children can be ready for life. Not having quality childcare will lead to more problems/assistance in the future,
- Parents can't afford care, so they don't work,
- The quality of family structures is suffering due to the high costs: Parents work a lot and come home too tired, if not working some parents do not know how to teach their kids at home.
- The playing field is not level,
- Parents must choose what essential items they are going to do w/o,
- If parents split the care- they are tired, and the education might not be quality.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Public Funding ECEC Sites**

- Some areas do not have any type of sites,
- Parents might not want to send their kids to daycare,
- We don't have Early Head Start in Lake County.
- We have 70 Early Head Start Slots in Lake County.
- Do we have enough sites for children?
- People should send their children to daycare.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Percentage of Children Under 6 Under 220%FPL (Federal Poverty Line)**

- We need more programming in Lake County,





- More help is needed in the areas where low-income families are living.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Prevention Initiative**

- The capacity of the number of sites went up from 2018 to 2021,
- There are the same numbers of sites difference between 2020 and 2021,
- In 2021 proposed capacity is increased to 174 due to an increase in one site.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Preschool for All**

- While reviewing data, the proposed capacity in 2019 decreased by 300,
- While reviewing data, there is a big difference in the proposed capacity for Preschool for All from 2018 to 2021.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Head Start (HS) & Early Head Start (EHS)**

- The number of children is less in Head Start,
- There are fewer centers of Head Start in Lake County,
- Early Head Start has one less center but the same number of enrolments,
- In the year 2020 and 2021 Early Head Start have the same number of funded enrolments,

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Why it is important to include this information in the Regional Scan?**

- It helps to identify what are the changes over a period of time and gives us an idea of where improvements are needed,
- It helps to identify the needs of different families,
- It gives a better idea to plan for future programs and needs.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



Notes: **Slot Gap of Prevention Initiative, Preschool for All, Head Start, and Early Head start**

- 3,802 Publicly funded slots,
- The numbers are not surprising,
- 46,858 children do not have a Publicly funded Seat,
- There are more children than the programs we have in Lack County,
- We might have more kids, but parents are afraid to say they have other families living with them,
- There is always a question, do we have enough space to accommodate all the kids?

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Determine the Slot Gap between Licensed Child Care, Licensed Family Care Centers, and Licensed Exempt Family Care Centers**

- 21,106 Total ECEC Slots,
- Things can change in minutes here in lake county,
- Parents are not sending their children to daycare due to covid,
- 29,554 Children with no seat 58.33%.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Do the numbers represented surprise?**

- Numbers are reflecting a harsh reality,
- We need the participation of everyone to solve problems,
- Information provided is disappointing,
- We need more variety of program models and categories.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Determined Slot Gap by Townships**

- 959= Antioch Slot Gap
- 2,207= Avon Slot Gap
- 980= Benton Slot Gap
- 472= Cuba Slot Gap
- 1,576= Ela Slot Gap
- 1,146= Fremont Slot Gap



- 1,158= Grant Slot Gap
- 2,151 = Lake Villa Slot Gap
- 1,419=Libertyville Slot Gap
- 2,087= Moraine Slot Gap
- 219= Newport Slot Gap
- 795= Shields Slot Gap
- 2,165= Vernon Slot Gap
- 2,204= Warren Slot Gap
- 1,546= Wauconda Slot Gap
- 4,707= Waukegan Slot Gap
- 1,598= West Deerfield Slot Gap
- 594= Zion Slot Gap.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Why it is important to include this information in the Regional Scan?**

- It is important to look at transportation needs like limited vehicles, distance from school, and having small siblings,
- It helps us to understand where we need more programs and start working on finding ways to get programs in those areas.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Review Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce**

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Reviewed Information regarding License Centers Directors, Teaching Staff, Family Childcare Center (FCC) Providers-Race/Ethnicity**

- Directors are underrepresented in the data,
- Majority of Center Directors are Caucasian and English speakers,
- Most of the providers are female,
- There is a big difference between the ratio on male and female,
- Teaching staff is closer to representing the community,
- Caucasian and white providers are over 50%,
- Among all the Race/Ethnicity Caucasians are the highest and Latinos are second highest,



- Family Childcare Providers are overrepresented for Hispanics/Latinos.
- There should be more people with credentials.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Reviewing Information on Licensed Center Directors-Highest Level of Education**

- Data is only as good as it is collected,
- Is the data accurate in terms of quality and resources,
- Some of the GED programs could be “Grand Father “in, very informative and supportive,
- Minimum degree requirements for providers are an associate degree,
- Some providers might have international degrees and not transcribed correctly,
- There is a question about, Does the workforce have the time and willingness to go back to school.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Reviewed Information regarding Licensed Center Teaching Staff-Highest Level of Education**

- The Department of Children and Family Service has a list that has transcripts from another country-sometimes transcripts are valued as lower than what was received,
- Degrees are not translated well from country to country,
- There is a need for an increase in awareness of scholarship opportunities,
- Teaching staff face a language barrier,
- If help and guidance are available, more teaching staff will try for further education,
- We need to create more awareness of the opportunities available for pursuing education,
- More help and programs are available nowadays,
- Some Teaching Staff might have degrees in Early Education that are nontransferable,
- Number of licensed teaching staff could increase if more help is offered,
- A lot of the bilingual programs have the education from their native country.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A



Notes: **Reviewed Licensed Family Childcare Center (FCC) Providers-Highest level of Education**

- Data represent more support is needed,
- FCC Providers are expected to obtain more associate degrees in Spanish at St. Augustine,
- Quality of the program and how to measure that is a question,
- Current Level of Education depends on their past education,
- More support is needed to deal with barriers and FCC provider's needs,
- Collage of Lake County (CLC) is looking for more teachers for the ECEC program.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Notes: **Hourly Wages by the role in Licensed Child Care Center**

- Low hourly wages make recruitment very difficult,
- Staff working in retail like Walmart/Amazon are making more money,

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**8:50 PM: Closing and Reflection (10 min)**

Facilitator(s): Maria Pizano

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**Next Family Council Meeting on April 22, 2023 @7 pm**

**Location: Microsoft Teams**