



Family Council Member Meeting.

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 6:00pm-7:30pm.

Attendees.

Council members present: Anita Frei, Catina White, Claudia Mercado, Folanda James, Hunter Stahl, Indirea Slaughter, Kerishena Metz, Kristin McGraw, Megan Crookham.

Agenda.

1. Review group agreements.

Notes: Melissa began the Family Council meeting with the Group Agreements and continued the discussion about adding a confidentiality statement.

2. Mental health/wellness check-in.

3. Mental and behavioral health landscape.

Notes: Melissa led a review of data in Region 48 related to demographics and the current mental and behavioral health services landscape. This information was surprising to some Family Council members, who said they didn't realize how many locations for mental and behavioral health services there were. The Family Council noted that most mental and behavioral health locations are in the city of Peoria, and rural residents may need to travel twenty to thirty minutes to get to services. This may be a barrier for rural families who lack access to transportation. Many parents learn about services through word of mouth from other parents that have or are utilizing the services. Without good insurance, families end up on a waiting list, and providers should be taking more insurance options. The Family Council reviewed some of the Mental and Behavioral Health Needs Survey results. The wait time to start receiving services depended on the service needed, severity of diagnosis, type of insurance, and ability to pay. Providers may prioritize patients with private insurance over patients with Medicaid, often limiting how many patients with Medicaid they'll accept or see daily. A Council member shared frustration about the de-prioritization of patients with Medicaid, as well as generally only accepting a limited number of insurances. Trillium, affiliated with Carle Health, offers a walk-in mental health clinic but they will send patients to the hospital for treatment. One final note was that Trillium is opening a new facility that will serve children 4-17.

Before next meeting...

- Utilize the Google form to share further thoughts.