



Family Council Member Meeting.

Date: November 29, 2023, 6:00pm – 7:30pm.

Attendees.

Council members present: Anita Frei, C'Ante Morris, Catina White, Christina Erwin, Courtney Kilgore, Folanda James, Gary Craig, Hunter Stahl, Kerishena Metz, Laurel Huston, Megan Crookham, and Shelby Hall.

Agenda.

1. Introductions/Icebreaker.
2. Group Agreements.
3. Recommendation 2.

Notes: Melissa reviewed the discussion from the previous Family and Action Council meetings. They did not propose any changes to the SMART Goals. The Family Council identified additional barriers/solutions, entities needed at the table, and funding sources. The Family Council indicated the recommendation will be fully implemented when providers have better access to the trainings they need, including a wider availability of trainings that are more specific. They predict implementation will lead to staff feeling more comfortable and confident in providing care to children with disabilities and children won't be turned away due to the fear of not knowing how to care for them. This would lead to an increase in inclusion and result in a higher level of care. Inclusive classrooms would benefit all children due to more peered relationships and increased behavior modeling. Parents would be more likely to participate because they see their child being welcomed and well cared for. Further, more specialized training supports the workforce and promotes equity and equality.

4. Recommendation 3.

Notes: Currently, the Early Childhood Forum is lacking representation from health care professionals and child care providers.

SMART Goal: Complete marketing and outreach to healthcare professionals and child care providers to inform/invite to the collaboration.

The discussion primarily revolved around recruitment of healthcare professionals.

Suggested action steps include creating a flyer about the Early Childhood Forum with a QR code leading to an information collection form and distributing it to pediatric doctors.

The Councils can reach out to those they already know that work in the healthcare field to get information out, and to local colleges to present to graduating classes going into the child care and healthcare professions. Marketing steps include reaching out to local media and news stations and inviting them to the collaboration to do a story. The

timeframe to complete this initial goal would be two months. Several barriers and solutions were discussed. Local organizations, businesses, and people that should be involved in the Action Plan include the media, local colleges, the Illinois Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Ray on the Action Council, and Dr. Fischer should all be included in this SMART Goal.

Before next meeting...

- Continue to think of additional suggestions regarding the final recommendation.