



Family Council Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Attendees

Council Members present: Bushra Ali, Sara Trine, Tanika Jones, Mindy Parks, Antoinette Bidlingmaier, Hillary Kelly, Tabitha Williams, Megan Loberg-Simmering, Amethyst Hamm, Lissett Felix, Elizabeth Haynes, Saunja Slater, Apryl Edwards, Monique Nally, and Gail Waddell.

Guest Speaker: Gwen Walsh from SIU Medicine and Sangamon HEART: IRIS.

Agenda

1. Icebreaker, Community Agreements, future Council and Workgroup date/ time, and questions.
 - a. n/a
2. Guest Speaker: Gwen Walsh from SIU Medicine and Sangamon HEART: IRIS. She provided the IRIS Q3 Dashboard and handouts.
 - a. Notes: Amanda introduced Gwen and went over how Sangamon HEART: IRIS partners with Birth to Five Illinois. She also revisited recommendation two from the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment and how the SMART goals were developed from the workgroup for the Action Plan to help build this collaboration by getting more organizations to join and also how it helps the children age birth to five years old in our communities. Gwen went over what Sangamon HEART: IRIS is and what the IRIS Dashboard (Referral tool) looks like for a partner to complete a referral if they are an organization in the system. She also showed how organizations can run reports on how they are doing with referrals and how the community is doing overall with referrals. She reviewed all the different screens that organizations would use and would see if they decided to join IRIS. Organizations in IRIS have found this referral process is very streamlined and the status of the referral is taken care of in a much quicker manner than when they had to fax, mail, or call the referrals.
 - b. Council Questions:
 1. Do we have to take referrals to be part of the Sangamon HEART: IRIS?
Gwen explained that an organization does not have to take referrals to be part of Sangamon HEART. They would have the ability to indicate on the IRIS dashboard they are not taking referrals and would still have the ability to make referrals to other organizations.
 2. Can 211 be part of Sangamon HEART: IRIS to make direct referrals?
Gwen stated that she would have to look into how this would look and let them know.



3. Google Drive update for Council.
 - a. Notes: The issues have been corrected.
4. Year Two Work - Mental/Behavioral Health.
 - a. Notes: Please complete the Mental and Behavioral Health survey by Monday, January 15, 2024, and send it to other community members you know to complete.
5. Share New Resource: Affordable Connectivity Program.
 - a. Notes: The Affordable Connectivity Program is a long-term, \$14 billion program to help ensure we can afford the internet connections we need for work, school, health care, and more. Eligible households can receive a monthly discount of up to \$30 per month on their internet service bill and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.
6. Opportunity for overall questions.
 - a. N/A
7. Closing remarks, data sources, foundational trainings, providing the Family Council report, and how to connect.
 - a. Notes: Council check-in will be sent via email starting Feb 1st from Birth to Five Illinois State Team. Transition Committee listening sessions are to be held bi-monthly and are public. We encouraged our council members to register for these sessions and give feedback, if possible.
 - b. Notes: Let the Council know about the Governors' Office of Early Childhood Development: Bimonthly Transition Update and Listening sessions. We encouraged them to register to know what is going on in this transition period for the new state agency.

Before the next meeting...

- Workgroup Date:
 - Recommendations One, Two, and Three — Thursday, January 18, 6:00pm – 8:00pm at SPARC 2929 Stanton St Springfield, Illinois 62703.
- February's Guest Speaker: Kendra Day, Community Engagement from Memorial Behavioral Health.
- **Next Family Council meeting: Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm.**
- **Location: 1209 S. 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703.**