



COLLABORATIVE FOR COLCHESTER'S CHILDREN
March 4, 2022
Leadership Work Group Meeting
Google Meet
9:00-10:30am

Attendance: Abigail Dunbar-Willbanks, Regina Brady, Cindy Praisner, Laurie Buyniski, Julia Lash, Beth Tiezzi, Nicole Sargent, Brittany Hebert, Meghan Amado, Teresa Messervy, Kate Byroade, Jessica Morozowich, Kerry Zrenda, Michelle Brezniak, Ann Marie Maffuid

Partner Updates -

Cragin: Planning for Summer reading continues, the theme is Ocean of Possibilities. School librarians will promote summer reading, host activities. Planning for Fall Parent/Child 5-week workshop, recruiting experts in various child development areas to participate, planning to create a video.

CASTLE: Preparing for summer programming and preschool enrollment for the Fall. Masks are now optional. Planning 30th anniversary celebration for April 30th, 10-2pm, family event includes food and activities. C3 will attend and host a table of information.

TVCCA - Early Head Start fully enrolled with 10 families, 4 will move to HeadStart in the Fall. HeadStart has 8 enrolled with 2 in process, 5 openings, 5 will transition to K in the Fall, 1 on waitlist. Mask mandate continues because programs fall under federal funding. Shared Professional Development opportunities with C. Praisner, and referred contact from American Job Center for School Readiness Council.

WIC - Servicing clients in-person, in the office. Masks are now optional. Process to get on WIC is easier than in the past, continuing the remote process through July. Noted action taken regarding recent baby formula recall.

CPS - Lottery pulled, 2 School Day classes, 2 Part Day classes, waitlist for both, 1 Special Ed class. Hosting three Kindergarten Storytime events for incoming children to visit school and listen to a story from a Kindergarten teacher while parents hear school information. Planning Kindergarten Orientation for the end of May, includes tours of the school/classrooms.

JJIS - Planning a learning night in April; Math & Literacy, using school store funds raised to purchase supplies for the event.

Hartford Healthcare - Working on a home visiting program for new moms to determine what supports they may need before/after delivery. New program to address diaper insecurity, goal is to provide diapers free of charge for all moms in need from birth to age 3, monthly by partnering with local pediatricians to distribute. To help address access to care and health equity, a new

van providing urgent care, will operate in the eastern side of the state in collaboration with Backus and Windham hospitals.

Parent Council Updates - CCNS participated in 'Joyful Noises on the go,' reaching working families not already engaged with C3 programs. Excellent feedback from children and parents. Would like to extend this program to more childcare centers in town, CASTLE would like to schedule for outdoors when the weather improves, C. Praisner contacting Enchanted Jungle and Curleys. Hosted a Parent Council meeting on 2/18 with an OEC Parent Cabinet member, offered feedback and concerns, such as the need to continue support programs like the Village, and difficulty with access to mental health services for children. Discussed how to build capacity and continue to reach out to those who really need support.

C3 General Updates - Joyful Noises Spring session will be held indoors in the Early Head Start room at CES. Plan to begin PEP 3/30. Stroller walks continue, new session of Village Support Group for Spring and Monthly Conscious Discipline Workshops scheduled for April and May.

Budget Update - C. Praisner reviewed the 21-22 budget. On track for spending.

#Colchester4Kids Campaign - C. Praisner encouraged members to participate in the final week of the challenge.

Sparkler Campaign Update - C. Praisner shared a report of community use to date. Members shared feedback on using Sparkler; including difficulty completing form, how to add/change community code, reports expiring, how to save & continue later. Forms completed on paper by CECP and CASTLE count toward community goal.

Mental Health Strategies - Cragin obtained CT State Library Summer Enrichment Grant - to offer a Summer program for social-emotional skills at Recreation Summer Day camp, using Second Step program. Discussed holding a workshop/program on healthy relationships in connection with Unplugged weekend, parents looking for reassurance coming out of pandemic. A. Maffuid offered to help facilitate a parent/caregiver session to cover topics such as how to reset and find balance. May 15th Community-wide health fair scheduled

Meeting Dates for 2021-2022

May 6

Submitted by:

Laurie Buyniski, Assistant to the Coordinator