



COLLABORATIVE FOR COLCHESTER'S CHILDREN
May 6, 2022
Leadership Work Group Meeting
Cragin/Google Meet Hybrid
9:00-10:30am

Attendance: Abigail Dunbar-Willbanks, Regina Brady, Cindy Praisner, Laurie Buyniski, Julia Lash, Beth Tiezzi, Nicole Sargent, Brittany Hebert, Meghan Amado, Kate Byroade, Jessica Morozowich, Stefanie Tracy-Calash

Partner Updates -

Cragin: Planning for Summer reading continues, the theme is Ocean of Possibilities. CES & JJIS will host programming on Monday nights. Planning for Fall Parent/Child 5-week workshop for families with children ages 12-36 months old, recruiting experts in various child development areas to participate (R. Brady offered to refer a nutrition expert). There will be stations of activities, expect to hold a morning and evening session. May begin to put toys back out in the children's department, possibly offer indoor programs in the summer with air filters and open windows, and will also continue the outdoor storytime program.

CASTLE: Preparing for summer programming and preschool enrollment for the Fall. Pre-K spots are filled. Multiple teacher positions open. The 30th Anniversary celebration was a great success.

TVCCA/WIC: Servicing clients in-person, in the office. Process to get on WIC is easier than in the past, continuing the remote process through October, and encouraging in person. Mobile Health Hub with Hartford Healthcare offers low-level health services and community services for New London county. IBCLC at WIC through professional and peer support, working toward reestablishing the Baby Cafe program, virtual mommy group has been a success, 2nd Wednesday of the month. Headstart and Early Head Start, home visiting, primary referral sources working well. CEO announced retirement, TVCCA hired a consultant to conduct a search for replacement.

CPS - Lottery waitlists - 22 School Day and 27 Part Day. Next Kindergarten Storytime event, for incoming children to visit school and listen to a story from a Kindergarten teacher while parents hear school information, will take place on May 10th at 11:25. Kindergarten Orientation scheduled for May 26th, 4:45-6:15, includes tours of the school/classrooms, Kindergarten team will give students game-based fun activities to help assess skills while parents stay in Cafeteria for presentation. PTO hosting family night on May 19th at 5:30 in connection with Book Fair, also artwork will be hung around the school on lockers, teachers will be running activities.

BOE Update: Interim Superintendent, Dr. Thomas McDowell met with members of BOE to discuss the timeline for filling the positions of Superintendent and Director of Pupil Services.

Created a new format for meetings to reorganize work flow and committee responsibilities. Budget Referendum will take place on May 24th, BOE must find \$200k cuts at the request of the BOF. Comments or questions regarding the budget can be directed to BOE@colchesterct.org J. Morozowich will be moving at the end of June and will no longer be C3 representative for the BOE. We wish her well!

Parent Council Updates - Parent Council Leaders recognized volunteers who helped host the C3 table at Castle's Anniversary Party. Planning Women Empowering Women event, Yoga & Wine night, in connection with the final Parent Council meeting of the year. Will schedule attendance for the Farmers markets table, looking for parents to sign up for shifts to help cover dates. (TVCCA interested in attending Farmers markets with C3 reps) Would like to order t-shirts for children to wear at Farmers markets. Recent OEC Parent Ambassador meeting reviewed UCONN survey, shared link to website where a map of Parent Cabinet regions is located.

C3 General Updates - Joyful Noises Spring session, Village and Baby & Me classes will continue through the last week of May. Two Stroller walks scheduled for May (17th morning and 31st afternoon) PEP continues through June 8th. Conscious Discipline workshop for May 18th, will be the final session, offering in person, with childcare, and virtual. Planning workshop with Charlie Slaughter, retiring from DCF, on 'Creating a Healthy Mealtime Environment' for June 7th, virtual 7-8PM. Offering summer mini-session of Baby & Me, Mondays 10:30 at Jazzercise studio, July 11-Aug 1.

C. Praisner reviewed the results of the CTCC Local Collaborative Parent Survey (see attached). Many positive comments and high ratings in support of the work of C3.

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

Strengthening LECC Grant - C. Praisner reviewed the plans for the LECC grant received by C3 for members of the council. This will likely be the last year from this funding source and will need to finish grant work by December 31st. Discussed hosting a Community Baby Shower in collaboration with Breastfeeding week, ideas included C3 Diaper Raffle, collecting donations to share, and having a lactation consultant present. Farmer's Market hand-outs can also be purchased. Consider "Ask me about C3" buttons.

Before and After School Care - Council members discussed the needs of the community for before and after care programming. N. Sargent shared that at this time Castle does not have the capacity to add more before and aftercare space; however, may consider it in the future.

Mental Health Strategies - Planning is under way to use the Choose Love Movement curriculum in a Fall kick-off event that would be designed to be multigenerational. Colchester Learning Foundation funds would be used for whatever is planned.

C3 Self-Assessment - Link for C3 self-assessment included in meeting agenda. C. Praisner will send it out again by email, asking all members to complete this form. Includes an option for 'need more information', should members be unclear about how to answer a question.

<https://forms.gle/eSr7utZtfvHjrtPe8>

Meeting Dates for 2022-2023

TDB - Have a nice summer!

Submitted by:

Laurie Buyniski, Assistant to the Coordinator