



COLLABORATIVE FOR COLCHESTER'S CHILDREN
January 21, 2022
Leadership Work Group Meeting
Google Meet
9:00-10:30am

Attendance: Abigail Dunbar-Willbanks, Regina Brady, Jennifer Rummel, Cindy Praisner, Laurie Buyniski, Julia Lash, Beth Tiezzi, Nicole Sargent, Brittany Hebert, Andreas Bisbikos, Meghan Amado, Teresa Messervy

Partner Updates -

Cragin: Planning for Summer reading has begun, may have an in person Family Fun Night and possibly indoor programming in the summer. Planning for a Family Place event in the Fall. Paused on indoor, in person activities for March, will continue with recorded storytimes next month.

CASTLE - Preparing for summer programming and preschool enrollment for the Fall.

Quarantines have been challenging for families and staff. Looking for staff, need college students during preschool times to help as substitutes.

TVCCA - Servicing clients in-person, in the office. Received a substantial Breastfeeding Community grant, will support the certification of lactation consultants, increase consistent messaging around breastfeeding support. Many innovative programs to financially support families that have been negatively impacted by Covid, such as energy assistance. Will share flyers for distribution among partners. Openings in HeadStart and Early HeadStart. Looking for support to fill remaining openings; however, full enrollment initiative by the federal government has been suspended due to Covid.

First Selectman - BOS, Town and School partnership with Goodwin University to support career pathways in collaboration with local businesses has been established. Air Quality testing to take place in Town Hall, Youth Center and Senior Center. Will clean these buildings based on the results. Establishing a Public Safety Committee to increase the collaboration among first responders and community members. Offered to support partners by promoting activities and events of partners. Some masks and test kits are available at Town Hall, reach out if needed.

CPS - Teachers are working on portfolio projects for NAEYC, piloting a new curriculum. Will pull preschool lottery in February, date to be determined. Some afternoon classes have openings.

Parent Council Updates - End of year Parent Council virtual get together took place 12/10 at 8PM, opportunity to connect socially, ask for feedback on Fall programming and discuss potential fundraising opportunities. B. Hebert and B. Tiezzi shared a summary slide. Parent Ambassadors will attend OEC Meeting on 1/26 to share feedback on what's working/not working in our community, looking to connect with community partners beyond C3 to reach parents who are not already engaged with C3. Connecting with the Parent Cabinet Representative for Region 3, will coordinate a meeting for the Parent Council.

C3 Updates - C. Praisner reached out to Board members (BOS, BOF, BOE) with a packet of information about C3 to offer an overview of our work. Received a donation from Colchester Cares in the amount of \$825. Continuing programs - Joyful Noises outdoors (2 classes) thorough winter session, Joyful Noises in Childcare Centers, Village Support Group, Monthly Conscious Discipline Workshops, Build Your Bounce- Resilience 3 night Series, Pop-up winter events for families such as Hike at Bulkeley Hill Preserve. The Community Plan is in the process of being updated. 22-23 School Readiness application will be promoted after the CECF lottery is pulled. Waiting on approval to use funds for LECC grant in 22. Will release the grant to apply for 2022 in March, asking partners to reach out with any ideas or projects to use funds.

Budget Update - C. Praisner reviewed the 21-22 budget. On track for spending, although not using childcare budget. Offering a self-paced Professional Development program on Brain Development for Staff.

Fundraising- Looking for members to assist in creating a plan for fundraising throughout the year; including goals, creating a sustainable plan and making donations easier to give. Plan to open an online store for C3 merchandise.

Sparkler Campaign Release - Engaging families through regular Facebook posts and emails over the next several weeks, goal to screen 450 children in the Colchester community. Childcare centers planning to use community code, some use paper form. Part of the SR initiative to have a process for developmental screenings, encouraging parents to engage in the educational journey, take control and learn developmental milestones. Asked partners to support the effort through their own emails and newsletters.

#Colchester4Kids Campaign - Challenge will run through the month of February with weekly raffle prizes for families. Plan to update the checklist with new activity ideas, families complete activities and post picture on social media with #Colchester4Kids. The goal is to support strong developmental relationships. Partners are asked to share and support the campaign.

Meeting Dates for 2021-2022

March 4

May 6

Submitted by:

Laurie Buyniski, Assistant to the Coordinator