

October 30, 2017

Dear Partners,

**Project Background:** As you may have heard, Healthy Chelsea, a community coalition out of MGH Chelsea HealthCare Center, received a five-year federal/state grant called Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) in August 2016. A part-time grant director (16 hours per week) working in Chelsea, Amy Izen, M.S., CCC-SLP, was brought on in July 2017. Chelsea and Springfield are two communities in Massachusetts that received ECCS grants, and both in these communities, and at the state level (a majority of the grant funding stays at the state level), work is being done to align systems and test changes that will improve outcomes (in the area of developmental health, see below) for children ages 0-3. In Chelsea, we, the partners listed below, have decided to focus on children ages 0-5 years of age.

**Current Partners:**

CAPIC Head Start  
Chelsea Public Library  
Chelsea Public Schools  
Chelsea-Revere Family Network  
Harbor Area Early Childhood Services (Early Intervention)  
MA Department of Public Health  
MGH Chelsea Pediatrics  
MGH Chelsea Community Health Improvement/Healthy Families  
MGH Center for Community Health Improvement/Healthy Chelsea  
Nurtury  
Raising a Reader

**Recent Goals/Focus:**

In the last four months, we have worked toward the following goals:

- Defining **developmental health** as 5-domain aptitude in the following areas:
  1. *personal-social-emotional*
  2. *communication*
  3. *physical and motor skills*
  4. *problem-solving/general knowledge skills* (i.e., object permanence/memory, space (move/fit), cause/effect, tool function (for desired effect))
  5. *learning readiness* (e.g., patterns/opposites/sequences)
- **Resource mapping** to be shared on [ourchelseama](#) under to-be-established “resource” tab labeled as “0-5 year olds” and eventual integration with [HelpSteps](#) phone application and website. If you have been identified as a resource focusing on children ages 0-5 or their parents, you have been added to this email list. We will aim to send updates at least twice per year to all of you, to let you know what we are working on, and remind you that our network we can be both a resource and a collaborator as you pursue the focused goal of your organization/Department. **We want to add you to our list of partners!**

- Explore needs around **referral tracking**
- **Define the Chelsea population of 0-5 year olds**
  - 4,111 children (42% of which have their primary care at MGH Chelsea)
  - Approximately 55 children born each month
  - 33% of children ages 4-5 in Chelsea attend preschool (notably lower than the 59% state average)
- Understanding current developmental achievement and screening practices
- Establishing a Parent Advisory Committee
- Implementing a Parent Navigator

**Week of the Young Child 2018:** We also have started to think about events and activities that we could spearhead during Week of the Young Child, an annual week in April that celebrates the tremendous value and possibilities in investing in the youngest of children. Week of the Young Child will occur during public school April vacation in 2018, from April 16-20, 2018, and we see this as a wonderful opportunity both to bring stakeholders together to network and establish our network, as well as to identify this issue to our community and invite families and businesses to learn and participate. We would be thrilled for you to join us.

**Regular meetings:** Our steering committee meets every two months for 1.5 hours and so far the meetings have been open to any partner who would like to attend. Please let us know if you would like to join us in December 2017 or February 2018 for either or both of our next meetings which will focus on continued identification of community needs and definition of goals. We recognize that work occurs between partners between these meetings to follow-up on the implementation of ideas. Groups may participate in our network in whatever way feels meaningful, helpful, and relevant.

We look forward to remaining in touch with you in the months and years to come!

Sincerely,

Amy Izen, M.S., CCC-SLP

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