

October 15, 2018

Dear Partners,

Welcome to the fifth edition of the quarterly “e-newsletter” of the Chelsea Early Childhood Network (CECN)!

Background: The Chelsea Early Childhood Network began to form in August 2017 as Healthy Chelsea ramped up their early childhood initiative. The Chelsea Early Childhood Network, a group of 25 active partners (see list at end of newsletter), collectively wrote a *mission statement* in August 2018 to describe our work:

The Chelsea Early Childhood Network is a coordinated initiative between families, community partners and agencies focused on providing equal opportunities for Chelsea children, birth to five, and their families, by engaging in proactive efforts which will aid in child growth, development and serve as a catalyst for family success.

If you know anyone that would like to be added to our email list and/or attend our meetings (the next one to be held on Monday, December 3 from 3-4:30 pm), please email Amy Izen at aizen@mgh.harvard.edu. We are thrilled to welcome new partners to our work at any time!

Recent Goals/Focus: In the last two months, we have worked toward the following goals:

- **Workshops/Events:**
 - **ECCS Gathering:** Members of the Chelsea Early Childhood Network attended the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) 3-day national gathering in Arlington, VA in July 2018. We met with the 11 other states who have ECCS grants and shared ideas related to improving early childhood systems via small steps of change that are rooted in a “continuous quality improvement” lens.
 - **Diversity-Informed Tenants:** Members of the Chelsea Early Childhood Network also attended a workshop in Boston in September 2018 to learn about [Diversity-Informed Tenants for Work with Infants, Children and Families](#) and began considering how these tenants might be integrated in our work.
 - **MGH Chelsea Community Research Day:** Two Steering Committee members, Kelly Washburn and Amy Izen, partnered with Sara Wang of MGH Center for Community Health Improvement to present at poster at MGH Chelsea Community Research Day on 10/5/18 entitled, “Literature Review to Inform a Collective Impact Approach to Improve the Developmental Health of Young Children.” Please contact Kelly Washburn at kwashburn@mgh.harvard.edu if you would like a copy of the presentation.
- **Work Plan:** The Chelsea Early Childhood Network has been compiling a work plan that captures and shares partners learning strategies and activities between members. Three partners shared their “small steps of change” at the September CECN meeting regarding better understanding which local hospitals at which Chelsea children are born, understanding home visiting referrals and reasons why families decline home visiting

programs, as well as strategies improve documentation of child developmental milestones through a home visiting program. Please contact Amy if you are interested in learning more about the work plan and/or including your agency's work in our plan.

- **Tools/Materials:**
 - **Developmental Health Videos:** In June 2018, we partnered with MGH Community Health Associates to participate in a ~30-minute panel discussion as part of Chelsea Community Cable TV's "Community Health Education" show that was entitled "Our Children, Our Health." You may watch the [English version](#) and [Spanish version](#) online.
 - **Magnets:** The Chelsea Early Childhood Network purchased and distributed magnets in both English and Spanish during the month of August to promote Boston Basics and the easy things people can do to help "grow their child's brain." If you are interested in distributing magnets through your program (image attached), please contact Amy.
 - **Trackers:** The Chelsea Early Childhood Network created and distributed "tracker tools" that can be used to support families and providers in helping families understand the steps to obtain services through Early Intervention (EI) and/or the public schools. Please contact Amy if you would like a copy of these trackers.
- **Family Navigator:** We are thrilled to share that Angelica Gonzalez Olmo joined our steering committee in September 2018 when she was hired by Chelsea-Revere Family Network as a Family Navigator for 20 hours/week. Angelica will help families living in Chelsea with children ages 0-5 years connect with community resources, facilitate a *Family Advisory Committee* to provide input to the Chelsea Early Childhood Network, and provide information about typical and delayed development via the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) as well as other tools.
- **Family Advisory Council:** The next Family Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting will be held on Thursday, October 25 from 10-11:30 am at CAPIC Head Start. Any family member with children ages 0-5 years of age or families that would like to give input on the early childhood initiative is welcome to join at the meeting (flyer attached). The Chelsea Early Childhood Network is seeking meaningful ways to bring various parent advisory groups together in our community that will support and sustain impactful family voices in our work while meeting the needs of each individual agency. We welcome your feedback and ideas in this area.

As always, please reply to this newsletter with any questions or comments about the information listed, and feel free to share this email with others who may be interested in this work. We look forward to continued work together and thank you for all you do to support young children and their families!

Sincerely,
Amy Izen, M.S., CCC-SLP

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Steering Committee members:

Amy Izen, Coordinator, Early Childhood Initiative, Healthy Chelsea
Jen Kelly, Director, Healthy Chelsea
Kelly Washburn, Data Lead ECCS, MGH Center for Community Health Improvement
Maria Yolanda Parra, Manager, Healthy Families, Community Health Improvement, MGH Chelsea
Bonnie Fishman, Social Worker, Pediatrics, MGH Chelsea HealthCare Center
Jeanette Velez, Director, Chelsea-Revere Family Network
Angelica Gonzalez Olmo, Family Navigator, Chelsea-Revere Family Network
Danubia Camargos Silva, Family Engagement Specialist & Coach

Chelsea Early Childhood Network Active Partners:

1. Bunker Hill Community College
2. CAPIC Head Start
3. Chelsea Community Connections Coalition
4. Chelsea Community Gardens (Green Roots)
5. Chelsea Public Library
6. Chelsea Public Schools
7. Chelsea-Revere Family Network
8. Children & Family Services of Lynn, Chelsea Branch
9. El Potro
10. Families First
11. Family Worship Center (Centro Familiar de Adoración)
12. First 1,000 Days Study at MGH Chelsea
13. Harbor Area Early Childhood Services (Early Intervention)
14. MA Department of Public Health
15. MGH Chelsea Community Health Improvement/Healthy Families
16. MGH Center for Community Health Improvement/Healthy Chelsea
17. MGH Chelsea Pediatrics
18. MGH Speech & Language Department
19. Neighborhood Developers, The
20. Nurtury
21. Outdoor Rx (Appalachian Mountain Club)
22. Raising a Reader
23. Roca
24. Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Program at MGH Chelsea

25. United Way