

January 14, 2019

Dear Partners,

Welcome to the sixth 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 22 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, February 4 from 9:30-11 am), please email Jen Kelly at jkelly14@partners.org. We are thrilled to welcome new partners to our work at any time!

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

- **Data update** – Monica Nardone, Outcomes Coordinator for CAPIC Head Start, shared key data regarding the performance of 4 and 5 year old children (121 children total) attending Chelsea Head Start in Fall 2016 (at least 115 of these children reside in Chelsea). According to the TS Gold, between 35-57% of children in this group met expected milestones in the domains of social-emotional, gross motor, fine motor, language development, cognitive, literacy knowledge/skills and math knowledge/skills.
- **Small Steps of Innovation:** As mentioned in our October newsletter, partners have been embarking on “small steps of change” to share their learning strategies and activities between members at CECN meetings. At the December meeting we heard from two partners (a home visiting program and a family based child care network) who are using the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) to capture child developmental milestones. They shared how the children ages 0-5 years of age are scoring, what referrals/recommendations are made, and how they have set up their databases. They also began to explore barriers to referrals and access to needed recommendations. A third partner (which runs outdoor exploration programs for children and families) examined strategies to increase referrals to their program. Please contact Jen if you are interested in learning more about small steps of change and sharing your agency’s work at a future meeting.
- **Engaging Parents**
 - **Barbershop event** - Since August, Amy has been working with a team of partners to put together an event/programming focused on fathers. Our idea is to have

an event at a local barbershop that uses haircut as a tool to promote the first Boston Basic, “maximize love, minimize stress” in parenting. We are also exploring the feasibility of having a CECN ongoing father group. If you know of any Chelsea fathers who would like to be part of this initiative, please contact Greg Alfaro at galfaro@mgh.harvard.edu.

- **Family Advisory Committee** - The next CECN Family Advisory Committee meeting will be on **Thursday, January 24 from 10-11:30 am** at CAPIC Head Start in Chelsea. Please share the attached flyer with any parents that would like to learn about how to support their young child’s development through the Boston Basic, “Count, Group & Compare,” and/or give ideas to CECN to improve the health of children 0-5 years of age! Contact the ECCS Family Navigator, Angelica Gonzalez Olmo at aolmo@capicinc.org with any questions.
- **Week of the Young Child** – Chelsea’s second annual Week of the Young Child will occur from April 15-19, 2019. There will be an “early childhood resource fair” and throughout the week free developmental tools will be promoted throughout the city and the CECN. Please contact Jen Kelly if you would like to help with WYC.
- **Trainings** - Healthy Chelsea offered a free “Science of the Positive” training in October 2018 with Dr. Jeff Linkenbach and Dr. Bob Sege. Members of CECN learned about how to consider the balance of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) with Positive Childhood Experiences (PCE) when considering a person’s capacity for resilience. This is relevant to our work with young children and families as we promote positive childhood experiences that set the stage throughout the lifespan. We plan to share tools from the training in the upcoming months with you, but please contact Jen Kelly if you would like any additional information at this time.
- **Resources**
 - **Milestone Tracker** - The CDC Milestone tracker app is now available [in Spanish!](#) Look up “CDC milestone tracker” in the app store. Once you install it (free) you may set your preferred language.
 - **CECN Intern** - Welcome to our Spring intern, Melissa Yutzenka! Melissa will be supporting Healthy Chelsea’s Early Childhood Initiative for 8 hours/week January – April 2019. We are thrilled to have her on our team! Melissa is an undergraduate student at Northeastern University earning a B.S. in Health Science and a minor in Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology. You can contact Melissa at yutzenka.m@husky.neu.edu.

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
Angelica Gonzalez Olmo, Family Navigator, Chelsea-Revere Family Network
Danubia Camargos Silva, Family Engagement Specialist & Coach
Cara Cogliano, Program Director, Chelsea Community Connections Coalition
Maria Yolanda Parra, Manager, Healthy Families, Community Health Improvement, MGH Chelsea
Jeanette Velez, Director, Chelsea-Revere Family Network

Chelsea Early Childhood Network Active Partners:

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

25. United Way

26. Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Program at MGH Chelsea