

May 13, 2019

Dear Partners,

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

CECN formed in August 2017 as Healthy Chelsea ramped-up their Early Childhood Initiative due to funding from the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant administered by National Institute of Children’s Healthcare Quality (NICHQ). CECN has 24 active partners and the following **mission statement**.

*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 meeting** will be on **Monday, June 3** from 9:30-11 am), please email Amy Izen at [aizen@mg.harvard.edu](mailto:aizen@mg.harvard.edu). We are thrilled to welcome new partners to our work at any time!

**Updates:** In the last three months, we have worked on the following:

- **Small Steps of Change** - Partners have continued to embark on “small steps of change” and sharing their learning strategies and activities with members of the CECN meetings. At the February meeting we heard from the Healthy Chelsea School Programs team who discussed a strategy to increase family engagement with early education school-based health programs, as well as from an MGH Chelsea pediatrician who is attempting to reduce the timeline from pediatric referral to having a first Early Intervention (EI) visit. Please contact Amy if you are interested in learning more about small steps of change and sharing your agency’s work at a future meeting.
- **Article profile** - The CECN was profiled by NICHQ in their [monthly newsletter](#) in March 2019. [The article](#), titled “Building an Early Childhood Network” described various strategies used to engage with and between partners toward our common goal.
- **Boston Basics training** - During the month of April we provided a [Boston Basics](#) training for CECN members to learn Boston Basics strategies to share with families. Thanks to First 1,000 Days and MGH Chelsea Healthy Families who helped bring this training to our group!
- **Early Childhood Resource Fair** - To celebrate Week of the Young Child for the second consecutive year, CECN supported several partners, Chelsea-Revere Family Network, the CECN Family Advisory Committee, and Chelsea Community Connections Coalition, who put on an extremely successful Early Childhood Resource Fair for families! You may watch a [highlight video](#) from the event here. Thanks to all those who hosted tables, and

a **special thank you to Angelica Gonzalez Olmo** who took the lead in organizing this event!

- **Family Advisory Committee** - The next CECN Family Advisory Committee meeting will be on **Thursday, May 23 from 10-11:30 am** at CAPIC Head Start in Chelsea. Please share the attached flyer with any caregivers that would like to discuss resources for children with special needs and 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](mailto:aolmo@capicinc.org) with any questions.
- **ECCS MA Workshop** – The second annual ECCS MA Workshop will be held **on Monday, June 10** from 10 am – 3:30 pm in Boylston, MA. During this Workshop the CECN team will work together on our initiatives while sharing strategies with Springfield and MA Commonwealth partners. Please **let Amy know if you would like to participate!** The Workshop is great opportunity to shape the early childhood work in Chelsea and network with others in the field.
- **Integrated Referral & Information System (IRIS)** – Thanks to connections with the 11 other states who have ECCS grants, members of the CECN had the opportunity to learn about an [Integrated Referral and Information System \(IRIS\)](#) which is being used in Kansas over the last several months. CECN will continue to consider how this platform could benefit our early childhood community for partners making *direct referrals* to other agencies(i.e., referrals with a family's name that go to an agency directly). If you are interested in learning more and/or participating in about a potential CECN IRIS pilot, please contact Amy.

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

*Coordinator, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant, Center for Community Health Improvement, MGH Chelsea HealthCare Center*  
Tel: 617-887-3669 (M, W, F)

**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. One 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 Center for Community Health Improvement/Healthy Chelsea
15. MGH Chelsea Community Health Improvement/Healthy Families
16. MGH Chelsea Pediatrics
17. MGH Speech & Language Department
18. Neighborhood Developers, The
19. Nurtury
20. Outdoor Rx (Appalachian Mountain Club)
21. Raising a Reader
22. Roca
23. United Way
24. Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Program at MGH Chelsea