

## Monomoy Early Childhood Council

A CFCE Advisory Council of Cape Cod Children's Place

Supported by

MA Early Education and Care's "Coordinated Family and Community Engagement" (CFCE) and  
Children's Trust Stop Abuse for Every (SAFE) Child Community

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### Minutes

October 5, 2023 ~ Harwich Elementary School and virtual on zoom ~ 6 - 7pm

#### Attendance (13)

Lucy Gilmore Cape Cod Children's Place CFCE Coordinator for Harwich and Chatham  
Patty Watson, Cape Cod Children's Place Director of Grants and Development

Ashley Symington, Harwich Director of Youth and Family Services

Susan Lellis, former WIC nutritionist, Monomoy Early Childhood Family res. center  
volunteer

Nikia Popow, Former special ed. infant / toddler teacher, volunteer

Sue Trask, Former Integrated Preschool and Early Intervention teacher, volunteer

Sue Peterson, former Family Childcare preschool teacher/owner, volunteer

Emily Hyatt Faherty, CCCP Playgroup Leader, parent, volunteer

Charles Gruszka, former preschool - gr. 8 teacher/administrator, volunteer

Jen Gould, Monkey Business Family Childcare teacher / owner, volunteer

Gretchen Kolb-Cauble, Rocking Unicorn Preschool owner / teacher

Ashley Our, Three Harbors Preschool owner / teacher

Mary Levy, former Make Way for Kids preschool lead teacher

#### **Regrets received from:**

Kathie Smith, HECAC, president

Alexis Mahon, parent volunteer, Cape Cod Life sales

Catherine Abate, OTR/L, CEIS, Cape and Islands Kennedy Donovan Early  
Intervention, Director

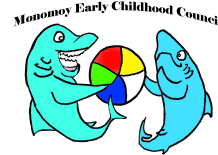
Katie Nickerson, Lower/Outer Cape WIC Family Outreach Coordinator

#### **Early Childhood Council Mission**

To ensure local coordination and maximize local participation in early education  
and care services and programs to best serve children and their families. The  
Council seeks to

- build upon and link to services in their communities,

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[lgilmore@monomoy.edu](mailto:lgilmore@monomoy.edu) ~ 508-430-7216 x3044



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- identify local gaps in services,
- improve the delivery of CFCE and SAFE Child Communities required services,
- coordinate and plan activities that benefit children ages birth through age eight,
- refer to other local community partners that provide comprehensive services,
- provide opportunities for active participation of families to inform policies and planning of CFCE services and to develop leadership skills as their child's primary teacher and advocate.

### **Five Protective Factors**

Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development, Concrete Supports in times of need and Social & Emotional Competence.

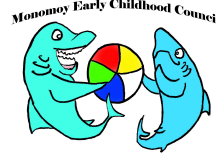
**Review and Approve Minutes** - May 5th meeting minutes *motion to approve by Sue Trask and approved by all.*

### **Introductions**

### **Friends Report**

- Donations \$1,515.62
  - \$1,500 from John & Elaine Brouillard/The Brouillard Fidelity Charity Fund
  - \$15.62 from Amazon Smile
- Fundraising \$1,000
  - Closest to the Pin Challenge at Cranberry Valley Golf Course, Harwich July 8th
- Tuition Assistance \$5,868.20 (since last meeting)
  - Scargo School \$4,107 (2 requests/approved)
  - The Family Schools \$720.20 (1 request/approved)
  - YMCA Children's Crossing \$1,420 (1 request/approved)
  - Early Joy Family Childcare \$1,000 (1 request/approved)
- Expenses: diapers/wipes/Supplies \$433.46

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- Balance: \$13,074.14

### Lucy's CFCE - Monomoy Updates

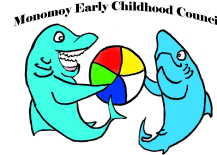
**Family Childcare Roundtable Success!** Two people who attended are now up and running their own family child care businesses! UPDATE, this article appeared in Oct. 6th news:

<https://www.capecod.com/newscenter/chamber-of-commerce-announces-grant-program-for-family-childcare-startups/>

**Community Development Block Grant child care scholarship** application is not yet available. Families should contact Bailey Boyd Associates to request that the application be sent to them when it is released. Truro is the lead (applying agency) town with Harwich, Provincetown and Eastham included.

**Book drive** - Over 1000 books donated in 17 days! (still not received 90+ books from Reed Books) I need help with signage and distribution for food pantry books distribution messaging / Early Literacy Importance translated into Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole

**Harwich Preschool Family Support Program** - The application was released on August 2 and by Aug 23, 2023 The program had received over 59 applications. *"The Program provides tuition payments to a licensed preschool/child care provider of the parent's or guardian's choice in any Cape Cod town up to a maximum of \$4,000 for the school year (September 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, not to include summer camp programs). Awards are available until all funds have been disbursed (for approximately 59 children)."* Unfortunately there were approximately 6 families who did not receive the full funding. Julie Witas, program manager, hopes the remaining funds would be divided evenly between the families who had their applications in before the Sep 1, 2023 deadline but after 59 applications had been submitted.



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**CCCP Program Updates:** Thank you! To volunteers Sue Trask, Sue Peterson, Kathie Smith, Emily Hyatt Faherty and Niki Popow for donating their time to clean toys in preparation for playgroups that began this week!

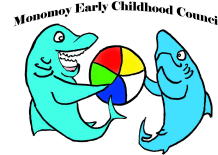
**Elementary School Curriculum Nights:** Gretchen Kolb Cauble represented our Council at the Chatham curriculum night, distributing books and information about CCCP, our Council and the resources we offer. Lucy was at the Harwich Elementary School's curriculum night, held the same night.

**Haitian Immigrants being sheltered in Yarmouth, update.** Linda Pierre, is acting as translator and community outreach coordinator. She has helped CCCP Sue Gubbins, DY CFCE Coordinator, Liz Dempsey, CCCP Groups Coordinator, to put together a playgroup schedule three mornings a week! Our Monomoy Early Childhood council provided 10 sleeves of diapers, five pair of children's size rain//winter boots, 25 brand new books (from our book drive), 1 and a large box of infant / toddler toys... 12 water bottles and over 20 brand new toothbrushes ( donated by Rocking Unicorn) and HES school nurses provided 12 gently used winter jackets from their collection and a pack and play. The need is great for car seats, and baby equipment. There are currently 17 children age 4 and younger residing at the Harborview Suites hotel in Yarmouth. The Cape Cod Children's Place have created a calendar of Play and Learn programs to be held on site 3 days a week.

**The Harwich Women's Club Holiday Giving program is underway.** 7 families with 11 children will have their gift wishes fulfilled by them, and the **Harwich Children's Fund** will purchase winter jackets, boots and PJs for the children who requested them. Save the date for the Harwich Women's Club's Santas Workshop on Thursday December 14th from 4 - 6. Please contact Lucy if you are aware of a family in need with children who are not yet school age (birth - 5) so we can arrange to provide holiday help.

### **(Lucy's) Council Goals to Consider:**

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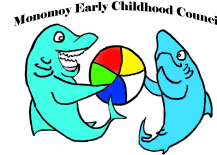
1. How can we work around rules at affordable housing neighborhoods that prohibit home day care businesses? For example Lake Street Terrace Neighborhood in Chatham - try for an exception to their rule of not allowing home businesses - could really use a Home Family Childcare Provider in that neighborhood - also
2. Lake Street Terrace playground playground is unsafe and needs to be upgraded.
3. Wrap around care options for Harwich Elementary School's Chatham and Harwich preschool students - YMCA is only offering full day which excludes students enrolled in the Integrated Preschool program.
4. What needs to happen to provide student transportation outside of Harwich town line? South Shore Early Education in Dennisport transports some Harwich students (at their expense).
5. Is it possible to re-establish a full day year around, high quality preschool program with a sliding fee tuition that offers wrap around care for students attending the Integrated Preschool Program? Discussion will be added to future meeting agenda.

### **Discussion /Community Partner Updates:**

In reference to our hope to increase council parent and guardian membership and participation, Gretchen, mentioned that she will be sending out a letter to all of the parents in her program who received Harwich Preschool Family Support Funds. She will encourage them to write letters of thanks to the Harwich Select board as well as emphasize that the Monomoy Early Childhood Council was instrumental in advocating for and creating this program and their participation is needed to ensure this Pilot program continues as a town funded program.

Sue Trask reported that the end of summer Camp for ages 3 - 12 offered by the First Parish Unitarian Church in Brewster was a huge success, fully enrolled and received great feedback about their programming and messaging. Lucy mentioned that it is a

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great example of "identifying a gap in services" and meeting the needs of the community (during a time when it is very difficult to find childcare for working parents).

Jenn Gould, reminded us of former successful fundraising events that included: Pie, Bread and Greens sales before Thanksgiving and selling raffle tickets for a scratch ticket wreath, Gretchen mentioned the idea of creating a bigger annual fundraising event similar to the Monomoy Community Services, Witches Walk. Lucy mentioned that she will be away for 10 days in November, so will not be available to oversee these fundraisers. She took a list of names and will send an email for them to continue the conversation.

Alexis Mahon, council member / volunteer, sent us information about the Cape Cod Life Magazine offering an advertising opportunity in their Nov/Dec Philanthropy edition. We discussed the possibility of participating, agreeing it is a great way to gain visibility in the community.

Emily Faherty's playgroups are receiving lots of positive feedback! Emily is offering a "Circle Time" playgroup on Wednesdays, 10:30 -11:30, at the Harwich Community Ctr. as well as a Sensory Playgroup at the Eastham Public Library on Friday mornings.

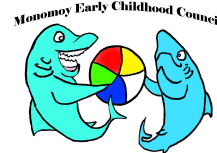
Patty Watson mentioned how she is appreciative of Lucy's shift from playgroups to family support where she is making great strides. Lucy mentioned that her reporting has been greatly improved by the creation of a daily log spreadsheet which also benefits Patty's grant reports and proposals.

Sue Peterson is selling her house (where she formerly had a home childcare program) and has toys and playground equipment to give away. She will send photos to Lucy and Lucy will email them to group leaders who may be interested in taking them.

Charles Gruszka mentioned that MRSD Portrait of a Graduate is now developing into a five year strategic plan with goals. The process will start with focus groups, one of

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which will be open to the community. Charles urges us to attend, stressing the importance of including education about early childhood development and parenting. Here is a link to information on the school district website: [MRSD Portrait of a Graduate](#).

His Self Esteem Parent University recordings can be found on the MRSD website and also on YouTube. Gretchen asked if it could be viewed and followed by a discussion for Early Childhood Professional Development credits. Charles thinks this would work very well. Lucy will look into it. Lucy mentioned perhaps Charles and Cindy Horgan could partner up to present a Nurturing Father's series. Charles feels the beauty of the model is that the recordings eliminate the need to present the material multiple times. For example, Ashley Symmington could refer parents to view the recording and then follow up with a discussion about the information presented.

▶ Parent University Developing Self-Esteem In Young People Part 1

▶ Parent University Effective Discipline for Preserving Self-Esteem Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYeQD6cRxxU>

Charles is now the Cape Cod Men's Club organizer of presenters at their monthly meetings (70 - 80 members in attendance at each meeting) who give a 20 minute presentation followed by questions and discussion. He invites us to present ideas relating to the Early Childhood community. Lucy will ask if Sandy Faiman Silva of Common Start could give a presentation. Also, perhaps Cindy Horgan, to give an overview of the wide scope of Cape Cod Children's Place services and programs.

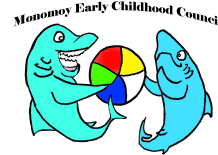
Lucy reminded providers that Mary Wilson is offering a teacher training, Mud Kitchens, at the Cape Cod Toy Library on Thursday October 19th, 6-8pm.

Lucy will be offering "provider open hours in her office / Monomoy Early Childhood Family Resource Center" from 5-6pm. Please give Lucy advance notice of which die cut shapes you would like to use... Lucy will create a list of what is available. Also can loan educational supplies, as needed (xl parachute, light table, puzzles, games, etc. - I

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will make a list to circulate). New books from our book drive are available for parents and providers to take to give to families who need in-home early literacy enrichment.

Sandy Faiman-Silva of **Common Start** has shared this time sensitive information: ***The State Joint Education Committee will hear testimony on the Common Start bills (H.489/S.301) calling for affordable, accessible child care on Wednesday, October 17 beginning at 11 am in Gardner Auditorium at the State House. We are asking as many stakeholders as possible to write up testimony for legislators regarding their child care challenges--as parents/caregivers, providers, early educators, facility owners, directors, and staff.*** We are at a critical time in this campaign and passing this landmark legislation will provide a roadmap for permanent solutions to the child care crisis. ***We also urge anyone who can, to attend the State House hearing. We want a very strong presence of allies packing the auditorium if possible.*** Please email Sandy at [sfaiman@aol.com](mailto:sfaiman@aol.com) for more information about possible bus transportation from the Cape and how to give written and/or oral testimony. Attached is a testimony template with links to fact sheets and more information.

**Our Next Meeting: Thursday November 2nd, 6 - 7pm Harwich Elementary School Activity Room and on zoom:**

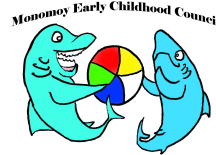
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84476797269?pwd=ekNWQnhVY3pPMjBWSTFUcUVTTitJUT09>

### September 2023 - June 2024 Community Engagement Calendar

*Throughout the school year, we host eight community networking groups that provide a forum for us to stay connected to the needs of the families that we serve. These important meetings help shape our programs, services and supports. We have reorganized our councils to better meet the needs of our local communities. Please note that the Dennis-Yarmouth and Barstable Advisory Councils have combined to become the Mid-Cape Advisory Council (what is the official name? Mid cape early child advisory council?) We have also increased our presence on the Outer Cape and reduced*

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duplication of services, by shifting the focus of the 11 Town Council to the Lower and Outer Cape. Please join us to learn about our collective community impact, how you can stay informed, and what to do to get involved. Below is our 2023-2024 meeting line up which is also posted on [www.capecodchildrensplace.com](http://www.capecodchildrensplace.com). Meeting formats may vary. For more information, please email contacts listed below

### Lower-Outer Cape Early Childhood Advisory Council

(Brewster, Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, Provincetown)

Quarterly on the Fourth Monday

6:00 - 7:30 PM, Virtual

10/23/23, 1/22/24, 4/22/24, 8/26/24

Contact Lucy Gilmore

[lgilmore@monomoy.edu](mailto:lgilmore@monomoy.edu)

### Mid-Cape Early Childhood Council

(Barnstable, Dennis, Yarmouth)

Quarterly on the Third Monday

6:00 - 7:30 PM, Virtual

9/18/23, 12/18/23, 3/18/24, 6/17/24

Contact Liz Dempsey:

[edempsey@capecodchildrensplace.com](mailto:edempsey@capecodchildrensplace.com)

Contact Kelly Morrison:

[cfcebarstable@gmail.com](mailto:cfcebarstable@gmail.com) Sue

Gubbins: [dycfce@gmail.com](mailto:dycfce@gmail.com)

### Monomoy Early Childhood Council (Chatham, Harwich)

Monthly on the First Thursday

Hybrid: 6 - 7:00 PM, Virtual and in person at Harwich Elementary School -

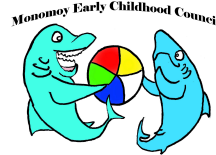
263 South Street Harwich, MA

10/5/23, 11/2/23, 1/4/2024, 2/1/2024,

3/7/2024, 4/4/2024, 5/2/2024

Contact Lucy Gilmore:

[lgilmore@monomoy.edu](mailto:lgilmore@monomoy.edu)



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Every other month, Third Thursday of  
the month

1:00 - 2:30 PM, Hybrid at Cape Cod  
Family Resource Center, 29 Bassett Ln.,  
Hyannis

9/21/23, 11/16/23, 1/18/24, 3/21/24,  
5/16/24

Contact Cindy Horgan:

[chorgan@capecodchildrensplace.com](mailto:chorgan@capecodchildrensplace.com)

or Patty Watson:

[pwatson@capecodchildrensplace.com](mailto:pwatson@capecodchildrensplace.com)

### **Cape and Islands Perinatal Wellness Alliance**

*(formerly the Cape and Islands Maternal  
Depression Task Force)*

Quarterly on the Third Thursday

10:00 - 11:00 AM, Virtual

9/21/23, 12/21/23, 3/21/24, [6/20/24](#)

Contact Kerry McCarthy:

[kerry.mccarthy.miller@gmail.com](mailto:kerry.mccarthy.miller@gmail.com)

### **Cape Cod Fathers & Family Network**

Occasional Mondays, September - June

11:30 AM - 2:00 PM, Hybrid at Cape

Cod Family Resource Center, 29

Bassett Ln., Hyannis

Contact Paul Melville:

[pmelville@familynurturing.org](mailto:pmelville@familynurturing.org)

**Cape and Islands Early Learning  
Network**