



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

Minutes

November 2, 2023 Harwich Elementary School and on Zoom, 6 - 7pm

Welcome and Introductions (15 participants)

Lucy Gilmore - CFCE coordinator for Chatham and Harwich

Kathie Smith - President of the Friends of HECAC and retired Kindergarten teacher

Francie Joseph - HECAC volunteer and former Harwich Early Childhood Coordinator

Mary Levy - former early education teacher

Nikki Popow - CCCP Playgroup leader and HECAC volunteer, retired E. C. educator

Kathleen Leech - Healthy Families home visitor for first time parents up to age 26

Charles Gruszka - former Early Education Administrator, MRSD strategic planning

Sue Trask - former Integrated Preschool teacher and Early Intervention home visitor

Susan Lellis - HECAC volunteer and former WIC Nutritionist

Sue Peterson - HECAC volunteer and former Early Education teacher

Emily Hyatt Faherty - CCCP Playgroup leader, HECAC volunteer and former E. C teacher

Patty Watson - CCCP Director of Grants and Development

Katie Nickerson - WIC Family Outreach Coordinator

Bambie Rosario Wyatt - Early Intervention Home Visitor coordinator

Ashley Symington - Harwich Youth Services Counselor

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,
- 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.

Monomoy Early Childhood Family Resource Center ~ Satellite of the Cape Cod Children's Place

Harwich Elementary School 263 South Street door 3

lgilmore@monomoy.edu ~ 508-430-7216 x3044

- **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 - 10/4/2023 *minutes approved*

Introductions

Friends Report:

\$500 donation received on 11/1/23

Lucy's CFCE - Monomoy Updates

- Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce is offering a \$5,000 grant incentive to new licensed Family Childcare Providers.
 - [Family_Child_Care_Grant_Web_3d10aa54-f8a4-4c63-ae07-dd751cc7137a.png](#)
- Charles Gruszka's Self Esteem Parenting series can be found in a new location on the Monomoy regional school website:
<https://www.monomoy.edu/parent-caregiver-resources/parent-university/developing-self-esteem-in-children-effective-discipline-for-protecting-self-esteem-march-may-2023>
- Listen to CapeCod.com's Sunday Journal interview with Deb Wilsea:
:<https://www.capecod.com/newscenter/sunday-journal-cape-cod-toy-library-helping-kids-during-critical-time-of-development/> The next Family Play Day will be on Saturday Nov. 18, 10am - 1pm.
- Portrait of a Graduate focus groups: ***a wonderful opportunity to advocate for student learning about child growth and development to be included in the Monomoy School District curriculum. Let's help our children value the remarkable physical, intellectual, social and emotional development of a child from conception to five years of age!***
Focus groups will be held Monday, October 23, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the MRHS Library. Parents/caregivers, community members, and members of local businesses and organizations are invited to attend this session. Snacks and beverages will be provided. There will also be a final virtual session for anyone who missed a prior focus group on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 6 p.m. (join at <https://meet.google.com/zdb-ynbp-stc>).
- Many Thanks! To Linda Pierre and Claudia Berbeo for their help with translation, Nikia Popow for volunteering her time with Harwich Open Gym, Sue Lellis for coordinating book distribution at the Cape Cod Food Pantry, Harwich Children's Fund for supporting material needs of a family with a preschool age child,
- Due to its popularity, Open Gym at the Harwich Community Center has been extended to 75 minutes (from 60 minutes). This program is now full (28 Families with a waiting list)
- The HES YMCA has begun to take some students from the Integrated Preschool program
- The Cape Cod Children's Place will be hiring a new Director of Grants and Development since Patty Watson gave notice that she is leaving her position to take a job with Cape Abilities. Patty has brought in a great deal of funding and professionalism for our organization and she will be greatly missed.
- Lucy has a list of Die Cut shapes available for your use in my office. For now, please provide your own paper and call ahead to make sure the shapes you need are available.

She is working on a list of materials and Kits that can be borrowed and returned at the next meeting.

Discussion:

Follow-up regarding Holiday Pie Sale Fundraiser - we decided not to try to do it this year. We talked about holding a Family Dance in January or February. Lucy will check on the availability of the Community Center activity room, D.J. Tommy Tuttle, food donations, ect.

Charles asked about the YMCA Gilmore House Early Education Center. Lucy will contact YMCA to learn more about opening plans and how that will affect the current program in the Harwich Elementary School.

Other News / Community Partner Updates

- Ashley Symington, Harwich Youth and Family Services counselor, is offering a once monthly Parenting series to be held in the library at 204 Sisson Road, 6 - 7pm. The first, Parenting BIG Feelings is Thursday Nov. 15.
- Bambi Rosario Wyatt announced that Early Intervention scheduling wait times have been significantly decreased since they have hired new staff!
- Charles Gruszka is the organizer for the Cape Cod Men's Group. He would like to bring someone from the Early Childhood Education community to make a 20 minute presentation followed by Q and A. Francie recommended someone from the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support community.

Next Monomoy Early Childhood Council Meeting: January 4, 2024