



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

Meeting Minutes - to be approved on 2/1/2024 January 4, 2024 Harwich Elementary School 6 -7 pm

Welcome (19)

Lucy Gilmore - Monomoy Family Resource Coordinator / CFCE Harwich and Chatham
 Christie Cutone - Harwich Elementary School, Principal
 Allyson Joy - Harwich Elementary School, Assistant Principal
 Jenn McIlvin - Monomoy Regional School District, Integrated Preschool Team Chair/ Teacher
 Liz Dempsey - Cape Cod Children's Place, Groups Coordinator
 Lucy Chrobak - Cape Cod Children's Place, Wellspring Project
 Charles Gruszka - MRSD Strategic Planning Committee / former Early Childhood Admin.
 Robin Milen - Monomoy School District, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
 Alecia Carey - Harwich parent (toddler and preschool age)
 Kathleen Leech - Healthy Families Teen parent (up to age 26) Program, home visitor
 Jen Gould - Monkey Business Family Day Care, Director / Teacher
 Gretchen Kolb-Cauble - Rocking Unicorn Preschool, Director / Teacher
 Francie Joseph - Former EEC Coordinator / Friends of the Harwich Early Childhood Council
 Nikki Powpow - Friends of the Harwich Early Childhood Council / CCCP Playgroup Volunteer
 Emily Hyatt Faherty - Harwich Parent / CCCP Harwich Playgroup Leader
 Kathy Smith - Friends of the Harwich Early Childhood Advisory Council, President / Volunteer
 Ashley Our - Three Harbors Preschool Director / teacher
 Susan Lellis - former WIC Nutritionist / Friends of the Harwich Early Childhood Advisory Council
 Alexis Mahon - Chatham parent, Volunteer / Book drive coordinator

Regrets received from (5):

Sandy Faiman-Silva - Common Start Initiative, Cape Cod Director
 Katie Nickerson - WIC, Family Outreach Coordinator
 Ashley Symington - Harwich Director of Youth and Family Services
 Mary Levy - former MRSD Make Way for Kids Preschool, lead teacher
 Angie Chilaka - Harwich Children's Fund, Family Support 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,
- identify local gaps in services,

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- 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 - *motioned to approve by all.*

Friends Report delivered by Kathie Smith, President, Friends of the Harwich Early Childhood Advisory Council

Donations received: \$5,750

Tuition assistance awarded: \$3,070 total: \$472.50 to Rocking Unicorn, \$600 to HES YMCA Early Education Center, \$2,000 to Laurel School

Lucy's CFCE - Monomoy Updates:

Saturday January 6th Common Start Community Meeting with legislators please RSVP to Sandy Faiman-Sliva at sfaiman@aol.com. The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce headquarters 5 Patti Page Way, Centerville, 10am-noon,

Effective Parenting Strategies, coffee chat with Cindy Horgan Tuesday January 9, 2024.

9:15 - 10:15 am AND 1 - 2 pm. Scheduled in response to request by the HES Integrated Preschool teachers who identified a need following Teacher / Parent meetings in November. Two more dates have been added: Tuesday February 27 and March 19.

Preschool and Kindergarten Family S.T.E.A.M. Night! 5 - 6:30pm Thursday Mar 21, 2024

2 principals and 6 Monomoy teachers and 2 community preschool teachers so far have volunteered to set up or help out with stations.

Friends of the Harwich Early Childhood Advisory Council will pay for 10 14" plain cheese pizzas @ \$100 (discounted from \$160) Pizzas will be divided into 16 mini slices per pizza. I also applied for a STAR market grant that would pay for all food - will be notified in February. Otherwise, we will need donations of bottled water, juice boxes, fresh fruit / veggies, plates, cups and napkins.

Childcare for older siblings will be offered in the Library by pre-registration. We will need volunteers who have been CORI checked for MRSD.

Family Early Literacy campaign: read aloud to every child every day! How can we amplify this message? Sticker to place into the books donated to our book drive? Volunteers needed to address this AND to help plan activities for **Screen Free week - May 6 - 12, 2024**

Kindergarten readiness / transition activities

Fundraising - ideas, dates

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Other News / Community Partner Updates:

Gretchen Kolb-Cauble's advocacy has resulted in an offer by the Cape Cod Chronicle to fact check and print updated copies of the Lower Cape Family Resource Guide! She also let us know that the Chatham Community Center has a preschool size table and chairs to give to a program in need. Lucy will reach out to our community partners to ask if they can use this equipment. Gretchen asked about district dates for Kindergarten registration and requested advanced notice regarding dates for registration and orientations, etc. Christie Cutone said she will give them to me as soon as they are available. Gretchen wondered if elementary school teachers and/or administrators would be making visits to preschools? Perhaps a student ambassador (for a preschool student now Kindergartener) could accompany them?

Lucy Chrobak explained the Cape Cod Children's Place Wellspring Project:

Thanks to the SORPEC (State Opioid Response-Prevention in Early Childhood) grant and a workgroup made up of early childhood professionals in the community, the **Wellspring Project** was conceived. We have just begun the implementation stage and are very excited to put all of the research into action.

Our mission is to support a culture of resilience and social emotional wellness in young children ages 0-5 and the adults that care for them.

Through generous grant support, our program is able to provide cost free services that include the following:

- **Professional Development** - Trainings around Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in response to needs and goals identified for each center (e.g. trauma aware and developmentally informed practices; creating sensory friendly environments)
- **Resilience Coaching**- Collaboration with educators and families to build strong relationships, create supportive environments and implement strategies that foster emotional regulation, problem solving and adaptability in children ages 0-5. Coaches will also support connection of new learning from Professional development to classroom practices and foster adult resilience.
- **Social Emotional Community Programs** - Offered to bring in additional approaches and education tailored to the unique needs and goals of each early childhood classroom
- **The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) Program**
An assessment and planning system to promote children's social and emotional development. Designed with the specific intent to bridge the worlds of early childhood development and mental health, providing a common language that is strength-based, family friendly and developmentally appropriate.

The DECA program works to: (1) assess and build resilience in all children; (2) promote the resilience of the important adults in young children's lives; and (3) create environments that support resilience-building behaviors in children and adults.

Wellspring Project Referral Process:

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To request CCCP Wellspring services or for further inquiries please contact:
Melissa Alves, Lead Project Facilitator, malves@capecodchildrensplace.com

Charles Gruszka reported that, as a community representative on the MRSD Strategic Plan Development Team, he was able to review the summaries from the various Focus Groups that were held to start that process, and could see the input from those in the Early Childhood community who participated in the Community Focus Group reflected in the report. The Planning Team has drafted Mission, Vision, and Core Values statements and will be turning its attention to developing Strategic Goals and Objectives for the upcoming years. There is a consensus on the team that partnerships with the community are very important, and he will do his best to promote the importance of strong partnership with the Early Childhood community be developed by the District in order to work together to maximize the early literacy and school readiness behaviors of students coming into kindergarten.

Robin Milen let us know Dr. Nicole Camp, ncamp@monomoy.edu, is the district's mental health coordinator.

Robin hopes to create a community needs survey to collect information to guide the district's strategic planning process to meet the needs of families with children of all ages, including pre-kindergarten

Next Meeting: Thursday February 1, 2024 Harwich Elementary School Professional Library (door 5 from parking lot) and on zoom.

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 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. Meeting formats may vary. For more information, please email contacts listed below.

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Lower-Outer Cape Early Childhood Advisory Council

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

Quarterly on the Fourth Monday

6:00 - 7:30 PM, Virtual

Next meeting dates, tbd

Mid-Cape Early Childhood Council

(Barnstable, Dennis, Yarmouth)

Quarterly on the Third Monday

6:00 - 7:30 PM, Virtual

Sue Gubbins: dycfce@gmail.com

Contact Kelly Morrison:

cfcebarnstable@gmail.com

Cape and Islands Early Learning Network

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

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

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

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

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