ACK-SEPAC

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Nantucket, Massachusetts

Laura Steele, Suzanne Fronzuto – Co-Chairs

Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2024

(Note: The meeting was held in-person in NHS conference room and via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM, facilitated by Co-chair Laura Steele, followed by greetings and introductions.

Director Update:

- Jenn Christiansen is developing new forms for transition services and making sure families are contacted ahead of time, in a timely manner.

  Special Services received DOE grant of $17,000.00 to inform educators and families of transition to new IEP in September 24. The department is formulating ways to partner with and inform families of the new IEP which is more student-centered and directed. The new IEP form is multi-lingual. Outreach will include a series of workshops with refreshments. Plans to offer childcare during these workshops are in the planning stages.

  Fairwinds will offer a 4-part series in Portuguese to inform families about the SPED process.

  (The director's full report is attached to these minutes.)

Guest Presenter:

- **Priscilla Ryan Graham: *CranioSacral Therapy and NeuroMovement for Neurodivergent Children***

  Priscilla has a practice on Nantucket that specializes in Neuromovement, a science based approach that uses neuroplasticity- the ability of the brain to rewire – through movement.

  Priscilla works with all ages; from infants to the elderly. Younger clients are generally children with special needs and learning differences or adolescents looking for help and relief from a sports injury. Adult clients may present with chronic pain, anxiety, or be recovering from a sports injury, stroke or other medical condition such as MS or Parkinson's.

  Neuromovement helps the brain reorganize the skeletal system and as Priscilla says, "when we move better, we feel better". If you'd like to learn more about Priscilla's practice, please visit www.proteamovement.com

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM and was followed by Uncommon Parents.

- *The next meeting of the ACK-SEPAC is February 20, 2024* ***-***

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Fronzuto, Co-chair

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Directors Report
January 17, 2024
Deb Gately

Transition Services as part of the IEP Process

Our Transition Specialist Jennifer Christiansen is continuing her work with students and families this year in creating Transition Planning Forms with students ages 14-21. Families will be contacted prior to her meeting with students. These meetings occur prior to the annual IEP meeting.

Grant Award to Nantucket Public Schools for the new IEP Form

The district was recently awarded a $17,000 grant from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for preparation in transitioning to the new IEP form that the district is required to adopt in September 2024. Included in this grant is funding for family information evenings that the district would like to collaborate with ACK SEPAC and the MLPAC (Multilingual Parent Advisory Council) to invite families to information sessions in the evening to explain the new form. Funding has been appropriated for food and refreshments,

Equine Therapy for Mental Health Opportunity.

Michelle Soderberg who is the owner of In the Herd Cape Cod located in Sandwich. Michelle has been awarded a Grant of 65K to benefit Nantucket Youth to provide therapeutic Programs for Mental Health, Wellness and Learning through Equine Assisted Learning. She has already negotiated a fee for the Steamship Ride and the DART transportation bus to bring students to her Farm in Sandwich on Quaker Meetinghouse Road. Michelle can be reached at intheherdcapecod@gmail.com.

The Special Education Process for Portuguese speaking families

Family Support Center in collaboration with IWYC, Head Start, and MVYPS is hosting a 4 part series, presented in Portuguese, with a bilingual educational advocate.

It is a great opportunity for any parent who wants to understand the difference between the US and Brazil's school systems. Then the following 3 sessions are more focused on special education and IEPs. Contact fsc@mvcommunityservices.org for more information.

SEAS LLC
Special Education Advocate Services

Angélica Bachour



A Virtual Series on

Your Child's School Rights in Portuguese

1. Understanding the education system in the USA vs in Brazil
   Thursday, January 18th, from 6pm to 7:30pm
2. Special Education Process
   Thursday, February 1st, from 6pm to 7:30pm
3. Understanding IEP and Section 504
   Thursday, February 15, from 6pm to 7:30pm
4. Case presentations and questions
   Thursday, March 7, from 6pm to 7:30pm

ZOOM

Register with QR code
or e-mail to access the link
fsc@mvcommunityservices.org

A collaboration between Disability Services, IWYC, Head Start, and MV Public Preschools

MV Community Services

MVYPS
Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

Family Resource Center

Fairwinds

Nantucket's Behavioral Health Center



IN THE HERD CAPE COD

EQUINE ASSISTED SERVICES

THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS WITH EQUINE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING

- Collaboration
- Personal Growth and Development
- Mindfulness
- Spiritual Opportunities
- Equine Assistance to help create and build new insight with a renewed perspective on life
- Self~Esteem
- Body Regulation
- 12 Step Recovery
- Stories Matter !!



** EQUINE EXPERIENCE NOT NEEDED !! NO RIDING MIRACLES HAPPEN FROM THE GROUND UP **

HORSES AND NATURE TEACHING LIFE SKILLS



