

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

February 5, 2026

Harwich Elementary School Library and on Zoom, 6 - 7pm

Welcome (11 participants)

Introductions, Names and affiliations

Lucy Gilmore - Monomoy CFCE Coordinator

Jen McIlvin - Monomoy Integrated Preschool teacher

Christy Lin - Monomoy Occupational Therapist / Harwich parent of young children

Ashley Our - Director, Three Harbors Preschool

Francie Joseph - HECAC volunteer / former Monomoy E. C. Family Resource Coordinator

Susan Lellis - HECAC volunteer / former WIC Nutritionist

Sue Trask - HECAC volunteer / former Monomoy Integrated Preschool Teacher / Early Interven.

Gretchen Kolb-Cauble: Owner/teacher, Rocking Unicorn Preschool

Katie Nickerson - WIC Family Outreach Coordinator

Bambi Rosario-Wyatt - Kennedy Donovan Early Intervention

Sue Peterson - HECAC volunteer, former Early Childhood educator

Early Childhood Council Mission

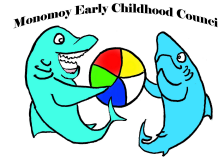
To ensure local coordination and maximize local participation in early education and care services and programs to best serve children and their families. The Council seeks to

- 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,

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- 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.

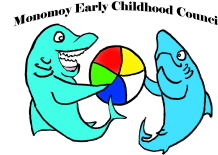
Review and Approve Minutes - November 6, 2025 minutes *approved*.

Friends Report:

Donations received since our Nov. 6 meeting: \$3,000 from Don and Betty Olson (in honor of Lucy Gilmore) , \$1,000 from Peter Polheumus, \$200 from Maxine and Malcolm Poland, \$100 from Buzz Joseph - both in honor of Francie Joseph = Total of \$4,300 Scholarships: \$1,000 to Children's Center (to be reviewed for renewal two more times, if needed) and \$3,900 to Harwich Cape Cod YMCA preschool program. Friends bank balance: \$17,845

Ashley Our reported that during the recent board of directors meeting, it was decided that scholarships would be limited to three months with recipients of tuition assistance to check in at the end of each month to determine if further assistance is needed. This will allow for changes in financial circumstances to be considered while also allowing Lucy to check in regarding recommended referrals. The board has suggested

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that the application be updated to include a checklist of the other forms of tuition assistance available to Chatham and Harwich families. Gretchen Kolb-Cauble recommended that each applicant receive a copy of the Lower Cape Family Resource Guide. Lucy agreed this is a good idea, and can also provide a link to it on the Cape Cod Children's Place website, where it is also available in Spanish.

https://capecodchildrensplace.com/wp-content/uploads/The-Lower-Cape-Guide-Online-Version-25_26.pdf

Ashley is putting together a Friends of the Harwich Early Childhood Council Board of Director's Handbook.

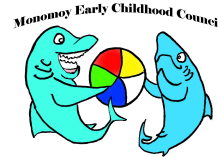
Francie Joseph reported that the board has plans for an organized outreach effort to gain business sponsorships. They are putting together a packet of information to give businesses when asking for their ongoing support. Gretchen suggested applying for a Women's Club of Chatham grant by February 27th to help fund a new public relations packet.

CFCE - Monomoy Updates

Jen McIlvin reported that enrollment for both the Integrated Preschool Program and the PUPS program is open. Interested families should complete an online Interest Form by Friday February 13th. Pups:

<https://forms.gle/K8tvMaYRAo2VDAG5A>

Integrated: <https://forms.gle/2Rz286j5W2ciYakv7>



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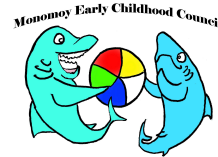
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The PUPS Program primarily has 10 openings for three year olds. The screening date will be February 25, 2026. The Early Childhood Team will reach out to families directly to schedule the screening. If a lottery is needed, it will be on March 2.

Integrated Preschool Program will offer one morning program for 3 year olds and one afternoon program for pre-kindergarteners. The screening date is March 25 with the lottery, for community friends spots, on April 1 (if needed). The Early Childhood team will contact families directly to schedule screening time. They may have an open house , but the date has not been set yet.

Lucy asked if the interest forms are translated because she has many families on her contact list who are English language learners. *Post meeting follow up, Joy Jordan shared these tips for translating the interest forms: "Both preschool interest forms are currently Google forms, which are web-based, even if they aren't created within our web platform. Google forms can be translated by the user a few different ways. The variations depend on what browser the user has and what setting they have already created on their device. Some users have browser settings that will automatically translate all online content for them. Others may use the tools on each site. In Google Forms, users can right-click to translate the form. [We have been sharing these directions on using browser translation tools.](#)"*

Lucy also wondered why there is such a short window of time (10 business days) for the forms to be completed because she felt more time is needed to get the word out. Jen said she would find out and get back to us. Follow-up response from Mellisa Maguire: "Typically, responses decrease after two weeks".



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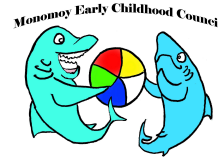
The YMCA Early Childhood program at Harwich Elementary School is accepting applications for infants and toddlers, with hope to open another classroom in the near future. Director, Amy Goodinson, encourages applying to their Head Start program as well, even though it is currently full, future openings are probable.

There is a new Family Childcare program in Harwich, Little Owls Learning Center, that has openings and accepts vouchers.

Lucy is seeking volunteers for the upcoming Family S.T.E.A.M. Night on Wednesday March 25, 5 -6:30pm at the Harwich Elementary School. Jen McIlvin said she would ask the Monomoy High School teacher who oversees their STEM club. Jen also offered to ask parents of her students who own pizzerias to see if they would be willing to offer pizzas at a discounted rate. We will need 10 cheese pizzas. The Harwich Children's Fund has generously offered to pay for the pizzas and activity station materials. STEAM Night Volunteer support thus far includes stations being offered by Jen McIlvin, Christy Lin, Emily Faherty, Harwich Conservation Trust (Andrea Higgins), Barnstable Co. Ext. Nutrition, Companion dogs.

Help will be Needed: pick up pizzas, sign in families, serve pizza, offer an **activity station, help run an activity station, clean up.**

There is a NEW Cape Cod Children's Place flyer that will be circulated requesting RSVP from families who plan to participate via email (dolly@capecodchildrensplace.com) , or QR code. Here is a link to the flyer:  FY26 Q3 Family Steam Night



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A professional development opportunity being offered by Cape Cod Children's Place on Saturday March 28th. **"Connected Communities" for families and educators to team up to discuss the importance of meaningful social - emotional learning.** Takes place at Doubletree Cape Cod in Hyannis, 8:30 - 12:30pm. Email dolly@capecodchildrensplace.com to register.

We are hoping to offer another "Effective Parenting Strategies" with Coffee Chat with Cindy Horgan at Harwich Elementary this Spring. Date(s) are TBA.

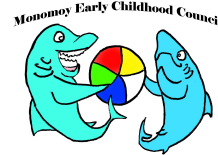
Looking ahead, there seems to be enough volunteer interest to move forward with the June Children's Book Drive, *Friday May 29 - Sunday June 7*. Lucy created a list of tasks that need volunteers to complete. Several in attendance offered to ask local businesses for gift certificates. This year, Reed Books will not participate (due to a family circumstance). Chatham Bars Inn has already offered a prize. Harwich Children's Fund members are lined up to help with all stages.

Lucy shared several flyers of Cape Cod Children's Place Play and Learn programs being offered this Winter that still have space for enrollment. Program flyers can be found on their website in both English and Spanish: <https://capecodchildrensplace.com/events/>

Lucy asked everyone to continue to send referrals her way. The Monomoy Early Childhood Family Resource Center has diapers and wipes and grocery cards to share and can help with early education placement and tuition assistance and more.

Lucy met recently with members of the Christ Church Episcopal (Harwichport) who donated a huge bin of winter hats, mittens and socks that

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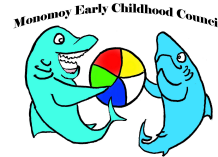
she shared with the school nurses office. Janie , the HES nurse, has been thinking about the need for a "Family Closet" where families can find clothing and footwear for no cost. Lucy mentioned this to the church, perhaps using part of their thrift store, and they were going to discuss it at their next meeting.

The Family Fun Fair will be Saturday May 16th at Flax Pond. Kindergarten Kickoff event will be held in June (for all rising Kindergartners) - date TBA (maybe June 4th?). Cape Cod Children's Place will be offering a "*Kindergarten Boot Camp - name changed to "Kindergarten Kickstart"*" at Harwich Elementary School taught by Jill Sanderson during the first week of Summer break for rising Kindergartners and a parent/caregiver. Participants will receive a kit of materials to encourage school readiness skills to practice all summer.

Other News / Community Partner Updates

- Katie Nickerson, WIC Family Outreach coordinator, has some infant and toddler clothing that she is going to bring to the Monomoy Early Childhood Family Resource center.
- Bambi Rosario Wyatt reported that Early Intervention has been receiving an overwhelming number of referrals coming from hospitals, DCF and parents. Those in attendance speculated whether this would increase the number of students receiving services in the Integrated Preschool program.
- Susan Lellis said the Cape Cod Family Pantry waiting room children's books (give away collection) need to be replenished, especially Infant/toddler friendly board books. Please encourage donations by bringing books to the loading dock behind the Pantry and be sure to tell them they are intended for the waiting room children's book give

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away supply. Since we didn't have a book drive in Spring of 2025, we are going to need other sources of books. We could ask the school to put out a "call" for book donations. Christy cautioned that we need to emphasize only gently used or new books will be accepted.

- Gretchen Kolb-Cauble shared information about an upcoming professional development opportunity being offered by Sharing Kindness: Wednesday March 18, 5:30 - 7:30, no cost, at their office location: 940 Main Street South Harwich. Sharing Kindness has been offering "Grief 101" to nurture a grief literate community for more than a year now - often partnering with libraries - and they want to work with the individuals caring for our youngest grievers to talk about what grief looks like in this population, what resources are available, what language should be used and how we can best support their families/caregivers. <https://sharingkindness.org/>

Next Hybrid Meeting: Thursday March 5, 2026, 6 - 7pm at Harwich Elementary School and on zoom.