

CAPE COD & ISLANDS COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK AREA ~ CHNA 27
Minutes for Thursday February 10th, 2022 9:00-10:30 am
Zoom Meeting – Meeting Minutes By Kelly Sommers

Present:

Louisa Stringer, Cape Wellness Collaborative	Mandi Speakman, BC Human Services
Laura Smith, Oakdale Farms	Colleen Kennedy-Meilo, Southeast Tobacco-free community
Regina Correira, Family Continuity	Cheryl Kramer, Outer Cape Health Services
Lauren Fogle, LCSW & Virtual Assistant	Kate Lena, Barnstable County Human Services
Patrick Logan,	Annie Catalano, Yarmouth PD
Cindy Horgan, Cape Cod Children’s Place	Mimi Evans, Alzheimer’s Family Support Center
Sandi Shepard-Gay, Extension Youth Educator	Sharon Dirac
Sue Bourque, CC Cooperative Extension	Valerie Pereira Brown, Healthy Imperatives
JR Mell, Big Brothers and Big Sisters	Marina Mendoza-Burris, We Can
Sandra Faiman-Silva, Common Start Coalition	Jessica Simmons,
Beth Gaffney, Child Care Network	Jennifer Gelinis
Tanya Roza, DY Regional school	

Welcome:

Meeting started at 9:05am

Regular Business:

- Mary Jo read the purpose of CHNA27
- Format of meeting explained
- Coffee Card giveaway explained
- Upcoming Grant information shared

Topic: Access to Childcare and Child Programs

Speakers:

- **Cindy Horgan,** Cape Cod Children’s Place
- **Sandra Faiman-Silva,** Common Start Coalition
- **Sandi Shephard-Gay** - Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
- **Susan Bourque** - Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

Presentation: Beverly Costa-Ciavola, Cape Coalition and **Laura Smith,** Oakdale Farms

PANEL:

- **Cindy Horgan,** Cape Cod Children’s Place

Identify different services we provide: Homebase of CCCP is in Eastham, our footprint covers the Cape and the Islands with the work we do. We’re in our 27th year of programming and started out as an Early education center for working families of lower and outer Cape. Expanded from Preschool to both infant and toddler through preK programs focusing on being affordable. Much of the affordability comes from fundraising. We’re a year round program. When we started there weren't a lot of programs Eastham to Ptown, especially in infant and toddler care. Another piece we do is provide free programming through the CFCE program. It’s a Cape wide program, we oversee Barnstable, DY, Nauset and Monomoy districts. Those are early literacy programs and parent education programs for free. We are also the state pilot for the Safe Child And Communities Grant (SAFE program - Stop Abuse For Every Child) administered through the Children’s Trust. That allows us to service families from Barnstable to Provincetown. The last big grant that

allows us to cover the Cape is the First Steps Together Grant, which allows us to work with families on the journey from substance use disorder. With early education in MA and the US, we are in crisis. As communities we need to be using the right language, to refer to it as child care does it a disservice and doesn't speak to what happens in those settings. I call teachers who do this work brain scientists. I know when they do their work well with ages 0 - 5 population it makes better, stronger communities. Children enter schools ready to learn. We have a lot of programs currently closing down because it is not a sustainable model. Every program should be able to provide high quality and consistency in early learning of children. Most families that aren't eligible for a state voucher or other stipend average between \$15,000 - \$21,000 per year per child depending where they are. Most teachers in this work rate of pay is between \$14.25 - \$18, many qualify for SNAP, fuel assistance and other programs to live. Not a sustainable wage. Accessing this care isn't easy right now, especially for infants and toddlers. The YMCA was able to expand their program to include headstart but staffing is hard. Many organizations in this work do fundraising for families that don't qualify for state vouchers. Just to live on Cape puts them out of qualifying because families work 2-3 jobs to live here. We are at a pivotal place right now to help push Common Start legislation. Childcare Network is a great resource for those helping to find care. Children's Trust is working on a new database called Find Help to help people put in their zip code and find resources in your area. This is a broad brush of what we do. Other parts of the world have figured out how to do this and sustain young children and families, without it the whole community is vulnerable.

- **Sandra Faiman-Silva**, Common Start Coalition

_____ (shared powerpoint) Common Start Coalition is a statewide partnership of organizations, providers, and individuals working together to make high quality early education and childcare affordable and accessible to all MA families. Goal is to ensure all children in MA have the same strong start and enter school on an even playing field. Commonstartma.org. I'm the coordinator of Cape and Island Chapter, contact me. This is a piece of legislation, there's a house # and senate # for MA. Our state senator Susan Murian is a sponsor, we have many endorsers and sponsors on Cape and in MA. We want early education and care affordable, accessible and of high quality. How do we do this? MA education and care of children is in crisis. Infant care is often over \$20,000 a year, toddler care is a little less but in the \$18,500 range (stats for MA). 4 year old care is unaffordable for many. Women are hardest hit from this crisis, both from the workforce (92% of that workforce is female) and as family members that have to help solve this crisis when childcare isn't available. Many on Cape just can't afford childcare or live in childcare deserts where it's not available. Early educators typically make 1/2 what elementary educators make for comparable work. This crisis has endured before covid but has really been brought to light with covid. Many educators and parents are aware of this but many business owners aren't really educated on how critical this sector is to our economy. How to do this? Compensation and support is insufficient, currently the sector through the state voucher system provides about \$10,600 on average per child yet care in the commonwealth is far in excess of the amount of money that's available to pay for childcare. That's why many organizations do fundraising, you can't sustain a sector on fundraising. What's in the bill? A universal plan with an income sensitive incremental rollout. Families will be supported based on income. Families that earn more will pay based on a sliding scale, but no more than 7% of family income. Roll-out will be incremental, hoping it will take 5 years to roll-out with the most financially in need covered first. The second part of the framework is provider grants, direct program grants based on capacity not attendance so facilities will have a reliable financial support system that will directly offset operating cost and to raise early education pay. Pay scales that are living wages, comparable to K - 12 living wage structure. Goal is to implement a funding system that reflects the actual cost of care and not an unrealistic system that doesn't support this important part of our society. The benefits are amazing and substantial. To learn more and help pass please join the campaign, consider endorsing the campaign if you're an agency that can. We have virtual round tables coming up.

- **Sandi Shephard-Gay** - Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

History of 4H: Came to be as a result of the government's in the late 1800s realization that adults in the farming community didn't want to learn new agriculture techniques but young people were. They focused on the kids to bring the info back to their family farms. The first club started in 1902, the Tomato club or Corn Growing club. They started the extension service through the USDA in 1914. Our mission is still the same, broad and lofty to prepare our youth to be independent, contributing members in society by providing them with tools to be successful. Today we are no longer about cows and cooking. We face challenges due to covid and figuring out what our youth needs. Agriculture is still important but we now have a long list of robotics, STEM, leadership, community service. The sky's the limit if we have a volunteer that comes forward and wants to teach it and kids want to learn. In Barnstable County, we're a member of the 4H program guided by that program. We don't have a ton to offer kids right now as we are rebuilding and in such need of volunteers but we do have access to the MA and UMass 4H programs (where our grants come through). We have access to MA and beyond, 4H expands through the country with some great programs. We support children 5 - 18 years old. Cloverbud 5 -7 years old, they don't compete but to expose them to wide opportunities. We have a Cloverbud program in Sandwich right now. Juniors 8-13, Seniors 13 - 18. We need all kinds of volunteers to be able to expand our leadership and service programs right now. Anyone interested in working with kids could help if they have an idea, all clubs need 4 kids minimum per group. We have an option of an independent club and can support that if possible. We have a horse program, dog program, community service, also working with food insecurity to pack food backpacks, military family support programs, babysitting training programs at libraries, last year we sent out sunflowers to 3 schools to help support kids growing things.

Susan Bourque - Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

My particular program area is nutrition and food safety education, which goes back to what was once called Home Economics. The cooking piece of it, and Victory Gardens, has a growing interest in it again - full circle. There's a lot of interest in cooking at home and preserving bounty, gardening. I'm fortunate to have my colleagues like Sandy. We have the Buy Fresh Buy Local chapter for Cape Cod housed in our department, the Master Gardeners, Horticulture Program, among many other exciting programs in our department so we have a great opportunity to collaborate on things. As for youth programming, we do have a SNAP ed program through the Cooperative Extension. We're affiliated through UMass Amherst (Sandy mentioned land grant) they put together a plan statewide for SNAP Ed. SNAP Ed is a federally funded initiative that accompanies SNAP. Is to reach those SNAP eligible, low income to help provide better health outcomes due to risks of poor nutrition and poor health outcomes. Our program at Barnstable County has grown quite a bit in the last 10 - 20 years. 22 years ago the only school that qualified was Hyannis East Elementary. It's not great to see the growing need but we can work with any school that has at least 50% free or reduced lunch programs. I get a list every year to see who's on that list, currently through snap ed we are working at all DY schools, Provincetown school, 2 monomoy schools, and 2 Falmouth schools. We don't just work with youth, we work with adults who bring the food to the house. Home economic programs are rare so working with the kids is important too. We work with the schools with what works best for them, often an afterschool program. We get into the school garden if there is one. We also do programs with pre k at Head Start at the YMCA and South Shore Community Action Center. We have a program coming this spring at Hyannis Library. Programs are free.

Q + A

Coffee Card Giveaway

Announcements

Meeting ended 10:25am

Meeting minutes respectfully recorded by Kelly Sommers, CHNA27 Administrative Coordinator;

Email address is **CHNA27Cape@gmail.com**