

Carroll County Early Childhood Coalition Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 28th: 12 noon-1:30pm

Children Unlimited, Conway, NH

Attendees: Emily Benson, Christine MacDonald, Shannon Quinn, Gail Yalenezian, Cassie Rowe, Diane Gilmore, Amy St. Pierre, Katie McCarthy, Schelley Rondeau, Pam Robinson, Tara McKenzie, Bill Nichols.

Welcome: Emily welcomed everyone and invited folks to introduce themselves and share one success and one challenge in their work:

- Christine: First "Crossings" gathering was held at MWV Children's Museum. Please keep this children's grief program in mind if anyone knows of a child who has experienced a loss.
- Shannon: Very busy with training and event planning, which is both a success and challenge. Poverty Trainings have been very popular:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/31117-saturday-special-training-day-bridges-out-of-poverty-strategies-for-professionals-and-registration-31462223357>
- Diane: Head Start has a new printer/copier, both success and challenge!
- Amy St. Pierre: representing Waldorf Early Childhood programs, have been able to help families in need of services with 211, challenge to find time to renew staff and ensure their own health is being taken care
- Cassie: NHS ESS very busy, with an increase in referrals for kids since the holidays
- Katie McCarthy: great progress is being seen with many children in Children Unlimited programs, very exciting to see. However, recent local suicide is taking its toll on many families in their program. Very glad she can refer them to the "Crossings" program.
- Tara: VROOM is being implemented into their storytime at Conway Library, still trying to have more families take part in their programs
- Gail: SAU9 has received 4 recent referrals from PreK programs for kids to evaluate.
- Pam: SAU9 just returning from vacation, so far children seem to be settling back into school routines very well.
- Schelley: HFA program is full, but there will be openings as kids age out of the program
- Bill: Resilience Counseling and Training Center has a variety of resources and programs available. Upcoming ones include a Grandparenting 101 course (see attached info) as well as a 6-hr professional development workshop for the UNH Professional Development & Training Office this May on "**Resilience-Based Classroom Behavior Management**" (see attached flyer) This teacher training workshop might be of interest to some EC educators and program directors given that national stats indicate 70% of school expulsions & suspensions occur at the pre-school level. This workshop will be held at the UNH Manchester campus. If there is sufficient interest Bill could also offer it locally.

Website Review: Everyone reviewed the early childhood section of the website. Members were asked to keep in mind any other info to include.

Home-visiting Program Update: Head Start, HFA, NHS and Children Unlimited Programs all doing well, but referrals are always needed as children age out of programs and openings result. Continue to see few referrals direct from Primary Care Providers

Developmental Screenings Update: Children Unlimited Watch Me Grow staff person has been reaching out to childcare programs to talk about Watch Me Grow and educate about ASQ process, however she is recovering from a car accident at the present, luckily returning to work soon.

Other programs & activities:

- **Care Transition Team Meeting at Memorial Hospital 2/2:** Panel presentation about current services available in region, followed by good discussion regarding referrals process to special services for children. It is especially important to simplify the process for maternity/primary care providers. Next meeting on 3/2 will continue the discussion. Need to focus on challenges in transition of care from hospital/primary care settings to home. How can case managers be better informed?
- **E3 Fatherhood Program:** program to support teen fathers across the state: <https://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/integrated/community.htm> through NH DOE. Contact Program Director Peter Durso at Peter.Durso@doe.nh.gov for more info.
- **Raising MWV Projects:** (*county-wide effort)
 - **Bedrock of the Granite State Training*:** Anyone who would like to be trained to present Bedrock can attend a training on March 29th at SAU9, exact time to be determined. Please see attached spreadsheet of ideas of community groups for presentations and let Emily of any other groups who might be interested.
 - None of the school districts in SAU9 will be asking for funds to support early childhood programming for the 2017-2018 school year, but work on this issues continues.
 - **VROOM*** is being implemented to help families acquire skills and activities to enhance their children's development and learning:
 - Funding provides app cards, posters and production of a radio PSA by WMWV
 - App cards were passed out to organizations at the meeting, and are also being distributed to the Carroll County House of Corrections, Memorial Hospital Maternity Dept and will be distributed following Bedrock presentations.
 - Everyone listened to the Radio PSA draft, agreeing that it would be nice to have Carroll County Early Childhood Coalition mentioned instead of only Carroll County Coalition for Public Health.
 - HFA, NHS and CU requested 5 sets of tip cards if possible. Emily will see if there is still funding available.
- **Kindergarten Readiness Program 2017:**
 - Believe in Books will provide books again
 - Pricing is underway to determine additional materials to provide along with KReady guidelines. See attached. Emily will bring more KReady guidelines to the March CCECC meeting.
 - Will include VROOM app cards
- **Kindergarten Transition Evening at Conway Library**
 - March 21st at Conway Library 5:30-7pm. Flyers will be distributed shortly.
- **Day of Young Child:** May ??

- There has been some interest in trying to organize the event this year. Ideas include an Early Childhood Program Fair, parade, ice cream, Believe in Books characters, etc.
- Contacts to be made include:
 - Conway Daily Sun/WMMWV
 - Ryan Sommers at North Conway Recreation Center
 - Andrea Caron at Believe in Books Literacy Foundation
 - Tara McKenzie at Conway Library
 - Abby Sparks with HFA
 - Kennett High School: Education Program/Little Eagles, Marching Band and/or Drumline as part of parade?
- Please keep Emily posted on any plans.
- Carroll County House of Corrections:
- Other news and updates
 - Rand Study information on the costs and benefits of investing in early childhood in NH: <http://www.endowmentforhealth.org/our-priorities/ensuring-the-healthy-development-of-young-children/Investing-in-the-Early-Years>
 - UNH math course for EC teachers: <http://nhpr.org/post/unh-receives-grant-aimed-training-early-childhood-math-teachers#stream/0>
 - Carroll County House of Corrections:needs help with parenting classes. Emily will contact Barbara Ross and others for potential programs.
 - Emily has completed and shared Framework for Action and Community of Practice Initiatives Crosswalk for Spark NH.

Upcoming Dates:

- March 21st: Kindergarten Transition Evening at Conway Library from 5:30-7pm
- March 28th: Strengthening Families Conference: <http://www.nhchildrenstrust.org/summit2017>
- March 29th: Bedrock Presentation Training; exact time to be determined
- April 29th: Caring for Substance-Exposed Infants: <http://www.nhadaca.org/events/124/caring-for-substance-exposed-infants/>
- May TBD: Day of Young Child
- *Next CCECC meeting: Tuesday, March 28th at Children Unlimited from noon-1:30. Please bring a bag lunch!*