

Carroll County Early Childhood Coalition Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Time: 12:00- 1:00 PM

Meeting Leader: Cathy Livingston

Location: Zoom Meeting

Participants: Gail Yalenezian, Katie Foster, Schelley Rondeau, Cassie Rowe, Heather Phillips, Emily Benson, Caleb Gilbert, Courtney Mitchell, Pam Stimpson

Notes

Program and Agency Updates

SAU 9

Gail Yalenezian and Pam Stimpson report that remote instruction and End 68 Hours of Hunger has been successful with many families engaging and that families are feeling supported and more connected to teachers. Parents/caregivers report that they feel more involved in their children's academic learning and they are present during sessions for occupational therapy, speech therapy and physical therapy.

New Futures

Katie Foster and the staff at New Futures have been working on recommendations to respond to the COVID 19 crisis with respect to how it impacts our childcare system in New Hampshire. In order to help keep families and childcare programs economically stable and healthy our state must ensure that childcare assistance policies are responding to the needs of families and providers. Caleb Gilbert suggested asking Rebecca Woitkowski, Kids Count Policy Coordinator at New Futures, to speak at next month's meeting to discuss legislative changes specifically around Early Childhood.

Carroll County Public Health

Caleb Gilbert has been working with a lot of community partners along with Catalina Kirsch to assist during this time of uncertainty and crisis. He reports that C3PH received some funding from the NH DHHS Healthy Homes Lead Prevention to work on Lead Exposure Prevention for next year. He is doing some research for the project and will be working to develop a lead advisory committee comprised of

partners in the county with an interest in this topic. There will be training opportunities available in the future.

Memorial Hospital

Heather Philips spoke about Telehealth services at the hospital and her work with the ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) workgroup. The group is working on pediatrician collaboration to create some PSA's and to write articles for the newspaper in regards to ACES and around COVID 19 responses.

Child Care Aware

Courtney Mitchell reports that Child Care Aware has a COVID – 19 Resources for Children and Families section on their website nh.childcareaware.org which includes Emergency Child Care Lines and an Individuals Available to Provide Child Care during COVID -19 Emergency.

Early Supports and Services, Northern Human Services

Cassie Rowe spoke about transitioning to remote services to families and how it is difficult for some families who do not have access to technology or are unsure how to use it. Early Supports and Services have been able to provide food and diapers.

Central NH Visiting Nurses

Happy National Nurse's Day to you Schelley on May 6th! Schelley Rondeau and her staff have been busy with home visits where they are taking safety precautions before going into a home. Schelley reports that Wolfeboro Area Children's Center is now open. 13 children are currently attending and are screened by herself (or another nurse) in the lobby before entering a classroom or any other part of the building.

Emily Benson shared information about "Cyrus the Virus" which you can view as a PDF and the story called "Masks" which can be found on Child Care Aware's website. She also shared information about a new preschool program called Timbernook which is an outdoor classroom with an emphasis on how the environment helps the developing child. For more information please check out their website www.timbernook.com

Children Unlimited

I shared that although Children Unlimited is closed for childcare and preschool, our Family Connections Resource Center is open and we are connecting with families through Telehealth and phone calls. We collaborated with NH Cooperative Extension to be able to give seeds to our families so they can plant flowers and start a garden. We are posting new resources daily on our Facebook page (if you would like something posted please call me at 447-6356 ext 110 or email me at

clivingston@childrenunlimitedinc.org Our physical, speech and occupational therapists continue to provide their services through Telehealth. We have also partnered with SAU 9 to provide End 68 Hours of Hunger bags of food for our families. Ardis and I attend the Regional Early Childhood Coalition meetings weekly through Zoom where the focus is on assisting at the state level to determine family and childcare needs. These meetings also give us a chance to talk about what we are seeing specifically in Carroll County. Rebecca Woitkowski from New Futures presented an Early Childhood COVID-19 Webinar on April 16th which will be attached with these notes.

Our next Carroll County Coalition Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 26th from 12-1 PM.