

## **Carroll County Early Childhood Coalition Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 24, 2019

**Time:** 12-1:30 PM

**Meeting Leader:** Ardis Yahna and Cathy Livingston

**Location:** Children Unlimited

**Participants:** Soyla Hernadez, Gail Yalenezian, Ardis Yahna, Cathy Livingston, Katie Foster (by phone), Pam Robinson, Schelley Rondeau, Courtney Mitchell, Cassie Rowe, Diane Gilmore and Caleb Gilbert

### **Notes**

#### **Carroll County Early Childhood Coalition**

The CCECC was founded in 2015 and it “identifies common priorities and activities that create a coordinated system of support for young children and their families in Carroll County. The CCECC serves as a workgroup to address early childhood and early parenting support with the mission to provide for the optimal development of children and families living in Carroll County, ensuring all children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to learn and thrive.” The CCECC agreed to continue work on this mission as the Coalition is also a member of Spark NH’s Early Childhood Community of Practice. A new work plan was discussed as the current one ends in 2020. The group agreed to keep the mission as the overarching goal and to develop new objectives to work toward the goal.

The coalition meetings will be held every other month (instead of monthly) and remain the 4th Tuesday of the month from noon - 1:30pm at Children Unlimited. Discussion revolved around focusing our work on Northern Carroll County. We briefly discussed a new name for the coalition that will support the Mount Washington Valley. Nothing was agreed upon yet.. Caleb Gilbert will act as a liaison for Southern Carroll County and will begin exploring agencies and partners in Southern Carroll County including Teri Ann Cox from the Wolfeboro Children’s Center, Huggins Hospital, Rural Health Network and White Mountain Medical Center. Gail Yalenezian suggested the entire county meet mid-year to share ideas.

#### **NH Preschool Development Grant**

UNH and the State of NH Department of Health and Human Services and Education was awarded a Preschool Development Grant (PDG) from the US Department of Health and Human Services. The end result of this grant is to understand NH’s early childhood system and to create a strategic plan to address the needs and improve outcomes for children. Ardis Yahna and Cathy Livingston have been attending Spark’s Community of Practice meetings and the NH Preschool Development Grant(PDG) B-5 Policy Committee and Stakeholder meetings. Ardis attended a PDG B-5 Strategic Planning meeting in Concord on September 23 with stakeholders from around the state. Nine strategic directions were reviewed and discussed at the meeting.

As part of the PDG, Children Unlimited is organizing Listening Sessions in Northern Carroll County. Eight organizations have agreed to holding Listening Sessions in Northern Carroll County. One was held at Children Unlimited on August 21st from 5- 7 PM and one was held today, September 24 at The New Life Program at Memorial Hospital from 11-1 PM. Other scheduled sessions include: Vaughan Learning Center, TAACP Head Start, White Mountain Community Health, The Children's Museum and Starting Point. Bartlett preschool is considering holding a listening session.

#### **White Mountain Community Health Center**

- Soyla Hernandez announced that White Mountain Community Health Center did not receive funding to become a Federally Qualified Health Center; most of the funding went to health centers located in southern NH.

#### **New Futures**

- Katie Foster has copies of the 2019 Kids Count Data Book and she also has county-wide data to share. New Futures is available for advocacy or legislative trainings.

#### **SAU 9**

- Gail Yalenezian reports that SAU 9 will hold a Child Find on October 16th from 8:30am - noon at the Children's Museum in North Conway.

**Upcoming Dates:** Coalition meetings will be held every other month from 12-1:30 PM at Children Unlimited. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1 from 12-1:30 PM.