



**Coordinating Council for Children, Youth and Families**  
**September 28, 2017 Meeting Minutes**  
 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. 344 Broadway

**Summary of Conversation Topics**

- Review 2016-17
- Cambridge Youth Council
- Birth-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Partnership
- 2017-18 Family Policy Council Proposal
- Brown Bag/Cradle to Career Pipeline Working Group
- Find It Update

**Next Steps**

The group identified the following next steps (or commitments) during the meeting:

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By When</b>
2017-2018 Meetings ○ Thursday, October 19 <sup>th</sup> 344 Broadway ○ Thursday, November 16 <sup>th</sup> Library (Curious George) ○ Thursday, January 18 <sup>th</sup> TBD ○ Thursday, February 15 <sup>th</sup> TBD ○ Thursday, March 15 <sup>th</sup> TBD ○ Thursday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup> TBD	All Family Policy Council members and affiliates	

**Present:**

*Hector Acevedo, Tina Alu, Branville Bard, Ron Benham, Lace Campbell, Ben Clark, Tony Clark, Uma Edulbehram, Michelle Godfrey, Liz Hill, Claude Jacob, Matt Nelson, Geeta Pradhan, Kenny Salim, Ellen Semonoff, Nancy Tauber, Kim Goldstein, Michelle Lower, Lei-Anne Ellis, Julie Roach, Sue Walsh, Susan Richards, Khari Milner, Naia Aubourg, Elaina Wolfson*

Co-Chairs: Mayor E. Denise Simmons and Neal Michaels (Denise Simmons was not able to attend. Neal Michaels chaired the meeting.)

**Executive Director:** Nancy Tauber

**Content Manager:** Mike Payack

**Socialize, Network and Eat**

**5:15 pm – 5:30 pm**

### **5:30 Call to Order:**

- Introductions and Welcome
  - New Members
  - Review agenda
- Cambridge Youth Council Update
  - Raw Perspectives
  - Focus areas
    - Sexual harassment
    - Consent
    - Mental health
- Adoption of Minutes (May 4, 2017 meeting)
  - Ron Benham moved to adopt the minutes from the May 4, 2017 meeting of the Family Policy Council
    - Tina Alu seconded motion
  - Motion passes—minutes adopted
- Public Comment
  - None
- Announcements
  - Schedule for next year is below (Neal)
  - We will continue to change the May meeting to the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday instead of 3<sup>rd</sup> (Neal)
  - CET update – Michelle Godfrey
    - Michelle co-chairs
    - CET recruit, hire, and train representatives of 9 different linguistic communities to reach out to these communities
    - Making Connections: 7-week training program for human service providers
    - Host free networking events for service providers in the City
  - Matt Nelson – Next Thursday, CPD will be hosting Coffee with a Cop event
  - Naia Aubourg announced that she co-founded a black student union at CRLS and they are actively recruiting members
  - Family Engagement Pipeline Gathering – Nancy
    - Opportunity for service providers to share best practices
  - Sue Walsh announced a neighborhood STEAM night being hosted at FMA next Thursday evening
- 2017-18 Family Policy Council Plan Proposal – Nancy (see below for notes)
  - Neal introduces and goes over Initiatives and Collaborations handout
  - Neal Michaels added that the mission of the Family Policy Council aligns with the proposal
  - Elaina Wolfson pointed out that we should be careful not to define “success” for others as there are many different ways of achieving success

- Geeta Pradhan added that level of education is not always directly correlated to income or “success”
- Ron Benham stated that resources are available regarding sharing various datasets while maintaining privacy of individuals
- Commissioner brought forth a motion that the FPC explore ways for the Family Policy Council to become the backbone organization that helps create a coordinated system of care in Cambridge with a shared vision and outcomes. Over the next few months the Family Policy Council will hear from organizations that can support these efforts
  - Ron Benham Seconded
  - So moved—motion passed
  
- Brown Bag Presentation – Sue Walsh and Susan Richards (see below notes)
  - Ellen Semonoff put forth a motion that the Family Policy Council to recognize the Cradle to Career Pipeline as a working group of the Family Policy Council
    - Claude Jacob seconded motion
    - Motion passes—the Family Policy Council recognizes the Cradle to Career Pipeline as an official working group of the Family Policy Council
  
- Birth-3rd Grade Partnership – Lei-Anne Ellis
  - Four goals
    - Increase access to services
    - Increase quality of services
    - Family engagement
    - Health
  - Placed 21 children in high quality pre-schools (60% below Federal poverty line; all below 50% median income). They pay \$1-4 per day.
  
- **Claude Jacob moved that the Family Policy Council adopt the Birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Partnership’s *CAMBRIDGE COMMITMENT TO FAMILY ENGAGEMENT*: Children and teens thrive when policy makers, schools, and city and community organizations partner with families to actively support children’s learning and development. It is our shared responsibility to engage each other in meaningful and culturally respectful ways. This effort is continuous across a child’s life from birth to adulthood and carried out everywhere they learn and grow. -Developed by the Family Engagement & Partnership Subcommittee of the Birth-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Partnership**
  - **Geeta Pradhan seconded**
  - **So moved—motion passed**
    - *Neal Michaels wants to be sure that the City Manager is aware of Lei-Anne’s excellent work*
  
- Find It Update – Hector
- The FPC agreed to form a Find It Cambridge marketing sub-committee led by Hector

**7:15pm**

➤ Adjourn

➤ 2017-18 Family Policy Council Meetings:

October 19<sup>th</sup> (344 Broadway)

November 16<sup>th</sup> Library (Curious George Room)

January 18<sup>th</sup> (TBD)

February 15<sup>th</sup> (TBD)

March 15<sup>th</sup> (TBD)

May 3<sup>rd</sup> (TBD)

### **DRAFT PLAN for Family Policy Council 2017-18**

#### **FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL**

The Family Policy, officially known as the Coordinating Council for Children, Youth and Families was created in 1991. It is chaired by the Mayor, and its members include residents, elected officials, department heads within the City, community and non-profit leaders, business, early childhood, philanthropic, university, state agency and youth representatives. The Council is dedicated to developing policy and program recommendations aimed at improving the quality of life for children, youth and families in the city of Cambridge.

#### **THE PROBLEM**

The City of Cambridge has a wealth of resources: innovative and flourishing industries; prestigious universities; pioneering civic institutions; dynamic programs and leaders; and organizations and people committed to serve others. Still, even with our City's extensive resources and opportunities, everyone does not share in the prosperity. There is a significant disparity in the ability to regularly access the best our community must offer, which touches almost every aspect of daily life in Cambridge: access to education, food, affordable housing, positive employment, health and wellness opportunities, and many others.

#### **THE VISION**

Opportunity requires equity: a community of people who can access what they need to be successful without disadvantaging others. Opportunity requires acknowledging and addressing the historical legacies of racism, income inequality, and other forms of oppression that systematically exclude members of our community.

Opportunity means that all children, teens, and their families can access understandable information about the resources that are available to them. It means reducing and removing the barriers (administrative, financial, technological, social, and others) that prevent them from being aware of and participating in the opportunities that exist. Opportunities that will help them enter the workforce, be able to attend and complete post-secondary education while thriving in homes where they maintain economic stability and believe their futures hold promise of success.

Our vision for opportunity is one where our policies and practices ensure that all children, teens

and their families are accessing what they need to be successful, engaged residents who are prepared for life in our community and in the world.

## THE STRATEGIES

The knowledge of and ability to fully access resources and services is a critical factor that will help individuals to lead fulfilling lives. In order for our vision to become a reality, we recommend the following strategies:

### Find It Cambridge

Goal: Ensure families have easy access to information, resources and services through Find It Cambridge.

### Strategies 2017-18:

- Continue to add and update the website with organizations, programs and events
- Continue to improve the website functionality and features
- Continue to promote Find through a variety of ways; including social media, Find It Here Places and Training; etc...

### Connect Cambridge Kids

Goal: While we need to make sure that “all” children and teens have access to available resources, we need to build a system that provides support for some children, teens and parents who need extra support and the few who need significant levels of support, including families in crisis.

Over the course of 2016-17, the Family Policy Council learned about existing efforts to support and connect children and teens with opportunities and resources in Cambridge:

- College Success Initiative (January 2016 Family Policy Council meeting)
- Middle School Network (November 2016 Family Policy Council meeting)
- Inclusion Initiative (March 2017 Family Policy Council meeting)
- Safety Net Collaborative (March 2017 Family Policy Council meeting)
- Education Redesign Lab and By All Means project (Harvard) (May 2017 Family Policy Council meeting)

### 2017-2018 Plan

Continue our research...

Now that we know more about what exists in Cambridge, we can explore ways for the Family Policy Council to become the backbone organization that helps create a coordinated system of care in Cambridge with a shared vision and outcomes. Over the next few months the Family Policy Council will hear from organizations that can support these efforts and help us:

- Create a shared vision with common outcomes and indicators
- Support a shared student data system to help everyone who works with children, teens and their families and gain additional perspectives that can inform strategies, policies, resource allocations and actions -- all aimed at eliminating barriers to equity and access, and to

improve outcomes.

- Tie all our initiatives together to better serve families and their children
- Coordinate our efforts with the School Department

### Potential Organizations

Say Yes to Education/Weiss Institute

At our October 19th meeting, Gene Chasin (Chief Operating Officer) will tell us about the Weiss Institute, a partnership between Say Yes to Education and America’s Promise Alliance. They focus on expanding the capacity of communities to make it possible for all young people to earn a college degree or other postsecondary credential. The institute provides tools, technical assistance, research and expertise to help communities create long-term, community-wide structural and cultural change.

### Forum for Youth

The Forum can provide us with coaching and technical assistance in the areas of shared outcomes and ongoing collaborative efforts so that we can adopt and execute a coordinated strategy for supporting youth and their families.

Once we have completed our research of potential organizations that can provide us with the necessary support, the Family Policy Council can make the appropriate recommendations.



## **THE BROWN BAG GROUP-----CRADLE TO CAREER PIPELINE**

### **WHO WE ARE**

*The members of the Brown Bag Group are listed by the department where their office is housed. Many of the individuals and the initiatives they lead are structurally held by multiple city departments, all of which include the Cambridge Public Schools*

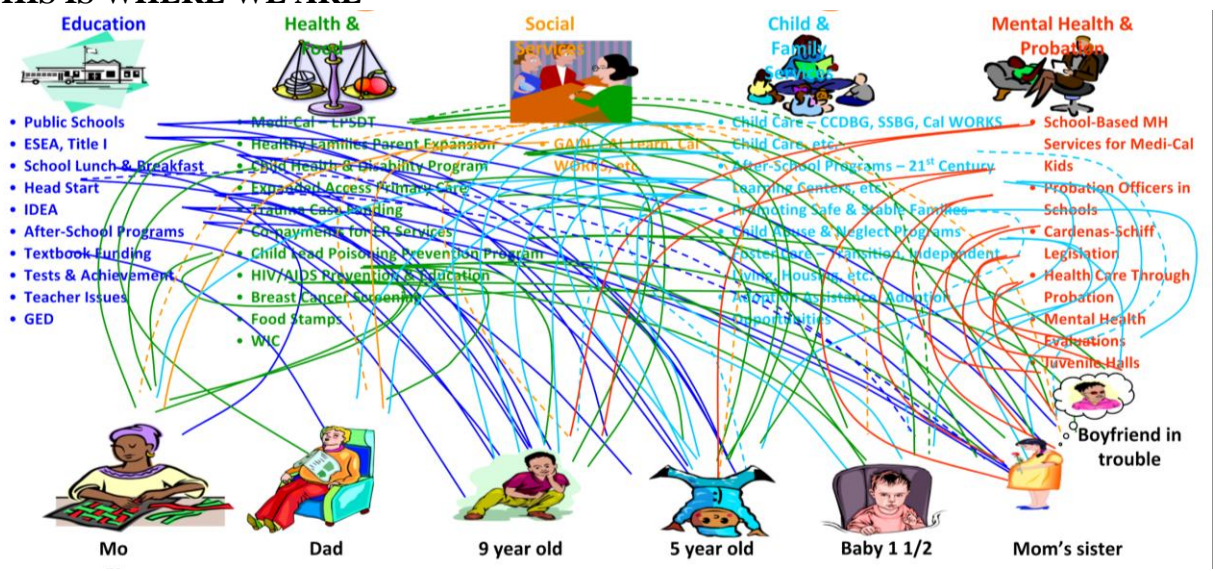
<b>DHSP</b> Ellen Semonoff Janice Alger - Administration Allyson Allen - Office of Workforce Development Michelle Farnum - Children, Youth & Family Services Michelle Godfrey - Center for Families Barb Maceachern - Agenda for Children OST Susan Mintz- Office of Workforce Development Susan Richards - Agenda for Children OST Kelly Royds - Agenda for Children OST	<b>Public Health</b> Jen Baily - Agenda for Children Literacy Mary Kowalczyk - Prevention Coalition <b>Cambridge Police Department</b> Kessen Green - Community Relations Matt Nelson - Community Relations <b>City IT Department</b> Josh Wolff - Open Data Program
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<p>Nancy Tauber - Family Policy Council  Emily Singer - College Success Initiative  Sue Walsh - Adult and Family Services  Sharlene Yang - STEAM</p> <p><b>CPS</b></p> <p>Jen Amigone - Research, Assessment Evaluation  Melody Brazo - Welcoming Schools  Lei-Anne Ellis - B-3rd Grade Partnership  Annie Leavitt - Agenda for Children OST, Middle School Network  Khari Milner - Agenda for Children OST</p>	<p><b>Women's Commission</b>  Kimberly Sansoucy  Emily Shield</p> <p><b>Domestic Violence Initiative</b>  Liz Speakman</p> <p><b>Cambridge Non-Profit Coalition</b>  Elena Sokolow-Kaufman</p>
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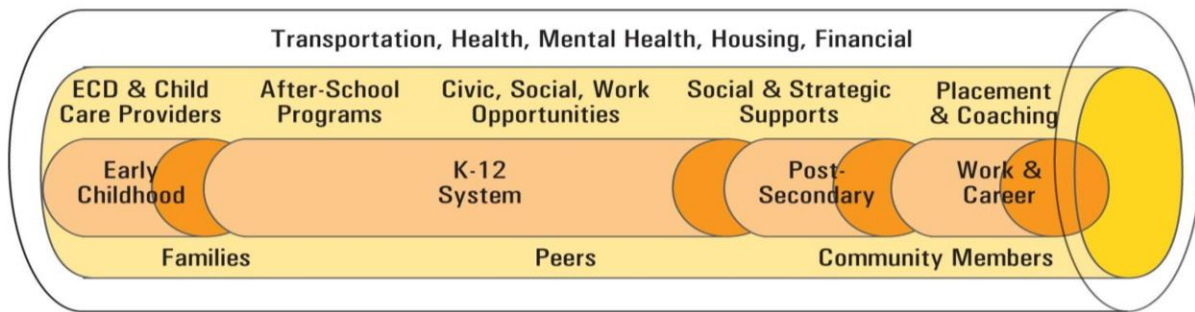
**COLLABORATIONS AND INITIATIVES WE REPRESENT**

<p>Agenda for Children OST &amp; Literacy  Birth-3rd Grade Partnership  Cambridge Non-Profit Coalition  College Success Initiative  Domestic &amp; Gender Based Violence Initiative</p>	<p>Family Policy Council  Prevention Coalition &amp; CHIP  Safety Net  STEAM</p>
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**THIS IS WHERE WE ARE**



**THIS IS WHERE WE WANT TO BE**



## BROWN BAG GOALS

- Create more synergy, collaboration and alignment around the work we do so that all children thrive and succeed from cradle to career.
- Further develop structures and strategies to improve the way we provide services and supports cradle to career.
- Help develop a shared vision and outcomes for our families and their children.
- Collaborate with Superintendent to help move forward the strategic objectives and initiatives of the District Plan Framework.