



October 21, 2021 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Zoom: <https://cambridgema.zoom.us/j/92461748993>

Summary of Conversation Topics

- CYC Updates
- Language Justice Updates
- CPS and Austin Texas Language Access Presentations and Discussion

Present:

Members: Tina Alu, Susan Breen, Christine Elow, Bob Gittens, Michelle Godfrey, Kim Goldstein, Victoria Greer, Irene Hill, Liz Hill, David Kale, Michelle Lower, Maria McCauley, Ellen Semonoff, Tagesech Wabeto

Executive Director: Nancy Tauber

Cambridge Youth Council (CYC) Coordinator: Ty Ruwe

CYC Members: Sophie Silberman-Goldman, Urbana Barua

Guests: Shayla Simmons, Lyndsay Pinkus-Brown, Crystal Rosa, Houmma Garba, Tabithalee Howard, Sujata Wycoff

5:15 Meeting Starts

Welcome & Agenda Overview

Family Policy Council Business

- Adoption of Minutes (September 23 2021)
 - Unanimously adopted
- Public Comment
- Announcements:
 - Nancy is looking for volunteers to help her interview new community-at-large members
 - Welcome Bob Gittens - representing Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition and Cambridge Family and Children's Services
 - Maria McCauley: Michelle Zoner is going to be in conversation with a food critic from the NYT on Monday evening, virtually
 - Baby University is recruiting in January, Michelle Godfrey will send Nancy the electronic version. Looking for families with at least one child under the age of 4 for a parent education series.
 - Positions open at the Center for Families and Baby University, Michelle Godfrey will send info to Nancy
 - November: There will be Pfizer vaccine clinics for 5 years and up
 - CEOC opened its food pantry last month in North Cambridge in the old NC health center. It's open Mondays & Wednesdays from 2-6pm; hours may expand. Will be accessible on Rindge Ave. Address: 266 Rindge Ave
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- Language Justice Updates
 - The City council and School committee passed Language Justice Policies
 - Crystal Rosa will be working with Nancy Tauber
 - 4 working groups
 - Language Access Plan (create a draft)
 - Plain Language Guide (create a guide, training, and implementation plan)
 - Language Access Vendor (research vendors and make recommendations)
 - Language Access Pilot for Nonprofits (work with nonprofits to determine what would be most helpful.)
- CYC Updates
 - So far there has been a retreat and 3 regular meetings
 - Project ideas: Mental Health Resources, Affordable Housing/Homelessness research, free T passes for all Cambridge youth, and Vote 16

Get to know you activity

Breakouts: Introduce yourself (name, pronouns) and share your story for 2 minutes EACH

Cambridge Public Schools - Language Access

Lyndsay Pinkus Brown - Chief Strategy Officer, Cambridge Public Schools

 For FPC_Language Justice Overview_October 2021

Discussion

- Questions
 - When do you think you will have some information that either will tell us [the city] what is the most effective vehicle to use, or if we're not as successful as we thought we should be, why is this effort not producing the results we thought we should?
 - This knowledge may already exist. Based on some data we know some things may not reach folks, but it's the tool vs the knowledge of the tool. There is some data that could be shared more broadly, but there is never one strategy. There are specific recommendations that can be shared with Nancy.
 - Do you provide your robocall messages in different languages? How many does it support?
 - Two different tools provide it automatically using underlying Google Translate, but that has stopped because of problems with bad translations. Now they are professionally translated by vendors or staff and then recorded. There are some limitations though, as some languages are not being translated for.
 - Urbana Barua: When at parent/teacher conferences and meetings with teachers and families, how will language justice be applied?
 - These tools are available for teachers to request an interpreter or use the language line for a live interpreter. CET partners will be used to make sure parents know these resources exist/to help parents understand culturally what a parent-teacher conference is
 - Community outreach workers and liaisons help with this
 - Sign language is available.

Austin Texas - Language Access

Houmma Garba
Language Access/Community Engagement Consultant
COVID-19 Language Access Services Lead
Community Engagement Division | City of Austin)
☐ City of Austin Language Access Program 10.20.2021

Next Steps

- Next Meeting - Thursday **November 18** (5:15-7:15) - Ester Serra Luque will give us an update on Transition House's Language Justice Plan, and we will have an opportunity to check out a draft of the Plain Language Guide

7:14 Adjourn