



Coordinating Council for Children, Youth and Families

March 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes

5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. 344 Broadway

Summary of Conversation Topics

- Find It Update
- Inclusion Initiative
- Safety Net Collaborative

Next Steps

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

What	Who	By When
2016-2017 Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Thursday, May 4, 2017	All Family Policy Council members and affiliates	

Present:

Neal Michaels, Hector Acevedo, Tina Alu, Ron Benham, Lace Campbell, Tony Clark, Luba Feigenberg, Liz Hill, Claude Jacob, Mike Johnston, Brent Larrabee, Kam Maali, Maria McCauley, Matt Nelson, Rihana Oumer, Geeta Pradhan, Ellen Semonoff, Nancy Tauber, Christine Elow, Kessan Green, Lenny DiPietro, Nicole Horton, Michelle Farnum, Alanna Mallon, Rory Millar, Mari Gashaw, Kim Goldstein, Rabeya Akther, Lace Campbell, Michelle Lower, David Kale, Frank Cabral

Co-Chairs: Mayor Simmons and Neal Michaels

Executive Director: Nancy Tauber

Content Manager: Mike Payack

Socialize, Network and Eat

5:15 pm – 5:37 pm

Call to Order:

5:37 pm – 5:45 pm

- Welcome & Introductions
- Adoption of Minutes (February 16, 2017 meeting)
 - Ellen Semonoff moved to adopt minutes for the February 16, 2017 meeting
 - Liz Hill seconded motion
 - Motion carried - minutes adopted

- Public Comment
 - No public comment
- Announcements
 - Find It Launch Thank You Party at Google – April 26th 5:30-7:30
 - Visioning Activity on March 22nd or Monday March 27th at 5:30pm CRLS (Nancy will email everyone the details)
 - Betsy Bard play on Monday March 20th 7:00 to 8:30pm. (Nancy will email everyone the details)
 - 600 People attended to Roxanne Gay event at the Library
 - CRLS Alumni Association March 22nd R U as Smart as a CRLS Student event.

The Family Policy Council is gathering information from existing systematic efforts aimed at supporting and connecting children and teens with the opportunities available in Cambridge and identify key transition points (entering kindergarten, middle school, high school and postsecondary experiences) in order to develop recommendations to better meet the needs of young people.

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.

- At the November meeting we learned about the Middle School Network.
- Tonight, we will learn about the Inclusion Initiative and Safety Net Collaborative.

Inclusion Initiative Presentation and Discussion (Nicole Horton and Michelle Farnum)

6:00 pm – 6:35 pm

Department of Human Service Programs(DHSP) Inclusion Initiative

- Department of Human Services Programs
- Michelle Farnum – Asst. Director of Youth and Families Programs
- Nicole Horton-Stimpson – Manager of Inclusion Services
- Brett Dixon – Inclusion Specialist

What Does the Inclusion Initiative Do?

We approach facilitating inclusion from several different approaches, including, but not limited to:

- Consultation
- Training
- Onsite coaching and modeling
- Hiring and placing Inclusion Facilitators
- Provide direct support to the children within the program when needed.

How It Begins

- Application for Enrollment – Information Release Form
- Will conduct assessments when needed to determine what is needed to meet the child’s needs.
- Ensuring that the child is capable of meeting the eligibility requirements.
- Participants must have the ability and willingness to participate in group activities

- Must be able to understand and follow program rules
- Conduct themselves safely and appropriately within a group setting
- Ability to successfully transition from one activity to another as well as in and out of the program

What does an assessment look like?

- Connect with parent/guardian to conduct interview
- Review of Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Observations in school settings (and other appropriate environments)
- Speak with all individuals providing support to child
- Present cases to the Inclusion Advisory Team (IAT)

What is the Inclusion Advisory Team (IAT)?

- All youth serving Division Heads – KOED, CC, CS, YC, Rec
- Director of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities
- Asst. Dir. Of Children and Youth Programs
- Manager of Inclusion Services
- DHSP Inclusion Specialist

Statistics – 30 DHSP programs

- About 20% of our enrollment has a documented special need
 - 30% of the children served are Level 3 or 4 (75% of the time or more)
- We hire about 30 inclusion facilitators during the school year and about 40 inclusion facilitators during the summer
- 10% of the children enrolled come from either a sub-separate classroom or an out of district placement
 - We currently have a classroom of 25 children where 4 of them come from a sub-separate classroom and has three inclusion facilitators.

Josephine

- 10 year old girl, 5th grade
- Diagnosis: Autism
- Sub-separate classroom (1st inclusive experience was afterschool)
- Communication with Home and School
- Consistency of behavior structures
- Field trips

Questions and Discussion

Safety Net Collaborative Presentation and Discussion

6:35 pm – 7:20 pm

Deputy Superintendent Christine Elow

Lieutenant Leonard DiPietro

Kessen Green, Director of Outreach and Community Programs

Matt Nelson, Community and Strategic Partnerships

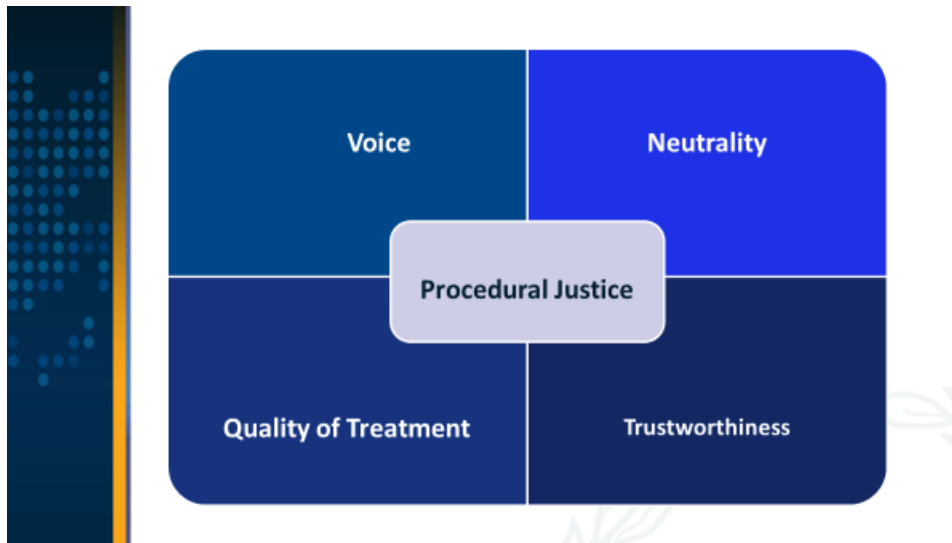
Cambridge Philosophy

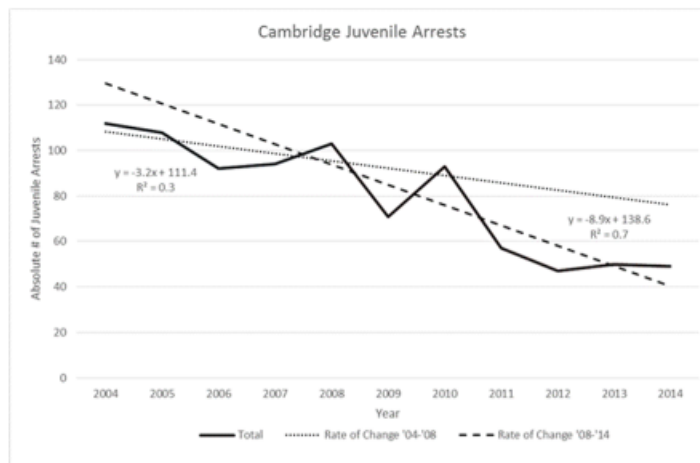
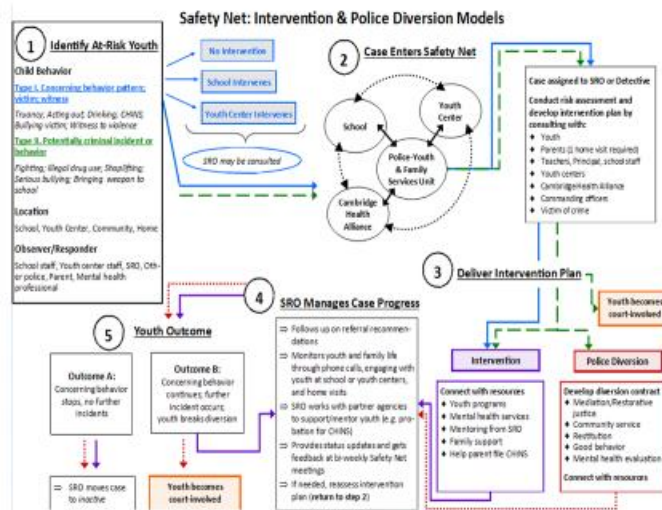
- Conduct an internal needs assessment to understand the existing culture.
- Methodically identify and implement strategies to create a culture of legitimacy.
- Emphasize the quality of the process versus the outcome.
- Give the community a voice to build trust and gain legitimate police authority.

Mission:

To foster positive youth development, promote mental health, support a safe community and schools, and limit youth involvement in the juvenile justice system.

-We don't want our young people entering the juvenile justice system!





Challenges:

- Communication
- Organizational Culture
- Performance Measurement
- Case Management

Questions and Discussion

- How do we have people from outside help support our officers during difficult interactions and overcoming challenges.
- Two sentence elevator pitch that can help officers connect with families.
- How is this information disseminated in the schools? Do young people have access to resource officers?

- Our officers are youth resource officers who split their time in the youth centers and meet young people in the community.
- The goal is to NOT arrest a young person. We are connecting with people in the school, community and parents who want to help a young person.
- Is there a different way that we can present this information with families and build trust?
- What are the opportunities to make use of this space to collaborate between CPD and CPHD. Communication, informing and empowering.
- The key is to already know about the program before an officer shows up at their door.
- Is there a way for parents to get digestible information, a flyer, a brochure?
- We train our officers to be able to respond to different situations and obstacles.
- Our barriers are often the baggage that families are bringing with them.
- Attend different community events where families are already seeing Safety Net officers and parents are learning about the program. More outreach and more visibility.
- Is there youth voice and youth input in the implementation of Safety Net? (Suggestion: Ask youth for feedback (start with those who have been through the program))
- What is what you need? And What is the time that it takes to help you get to where you want to go?

7:20 - Adjourn