



FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, September 18, 2024 (5:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.)
806 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge MA
Citywide Senior Center Ballroom

Summary of Conversation Topics

- Review Success Planning Framework
- Presentation and Discussion

Chair: ~~Mayor Simmons~~

Co-Chair Sumbul Siddiqui

Members: Tina Alu, Abel Asefaw, Rehaan Anjaria, Urbana Barua, ~~Christine Elow~~, Lida Griffins, Michelle Godfrey, ~~Tabitha Howard~~, Caroline Hunter, Mike Johnston, Michelle Lower, ~~Maria McCauley~~, Dave Murphy, Matt Nelson, Geeta Pradhan, ~~Bridget Rodriguez~~, Ellen Semonoff, Liz Stapleton, Tagesech Wabeto, ~~Ayesha Wilson~~

Executive Director: Nancy Tauber

Notetaker/Find It Manager: Andrew Liedtka

CYC Members: Fatima Najri, Labonna Dey

Guests: Connor Epsteinkraus, Sarah Lincoln, Joy Kim, Mary Kowalczyk, Jasmin Mena, Melina O'Grady, Derrick Neal, Nadia Davila, Nikoi Coley Ribeiro, Jen Bailly, Jesus Armenta

5:30 Welcome and Introductions

- Family Policy Council Business
 - Approval of May 4, 2024 Minutes
 - PASSES: Unanimously
- Public Comment
 - N/A
- Announcements
 - The Family Policy Council is the Advisory Council for The Center for Families, the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grantee.
 - We are currently looking for a Community at Large member to replace Kim Goldstein, as well as a state agency rep.

- Digital Navigators, device distribution, using devices, internet access, accessing online services, safety tips for online privacy/security
- Find It Cambridge
- Danehy Park Family Day this Saturday
- Cambridge Preschool Program — application October 1st

Presentation and Discussion

📅 9/18 Proposal Presentation

- Family Policy Council Council 2023-24 Review - Nancy Tauber
- Success Planning Phase 1 - Nancy Tauber
- Youth Wellness Proposal - Sarah Lincoln and Connor Epsteinkraus
- Small group sessions

Share your initial opinions and reactions to the Call to Action, Proposed Mission, and Guiding Principles:

- What resonates with you?
- Are there any red flags?
- What is missing?

Share your initial opinions and reactions to the Theory of Change and Outcome Examples:

- What resonates with you?
- What questions do you have?

Discussion

- Data
 - The importance of family members, friends and community members in the process
 - Where students are meeting adults might be hard to measure
 - One or two percentage points means a lot of youth are affected.
 - Adults throwing solutions at the wall often doesn't result in success.
 - Academic achievement is quantitative and often looked at as success, but how should success really be defined? The absence of depression and anxiety is good, but is there something that exists that we can measure to define success rather than the absence of the negative.
- Guiding Principles
 - Youth centered approaches were emphasized. Youth need to be an active part of the solution.
 - Guiding principles may be a bit long, and should be more concentrated/consolidated to tell what falls within the bounds of your principles and what's on the outside.
- Theory of Change:
 - Having a vision that helps bring others along. Make sure that the youth are not always the same youth and the same voices. More teachers in the classroom, some students are bored, don't feel challenged enough/engaged.
 - Youth engagement, how to create more opportunities, like Falcon block usage, students who are already so involved, how do you create space for this? What order do we start

with for change?

- How do we measure success and find solutions for a very complex and diverse problem that looks different for everyone. Academic achievement vs. stress and stigma are difficult to talk about.
- What it looks like, not everyone wants to go to meetings, there must be actions. Stigma in families and how to get buy-in from everyone. As a study is happening, getting feedback in real time and adjusting as we go along and staying flexible, assessing what already exists in the community and what's already working is crucial.
- Interconnectedness as key. What does connection look like? Between peers, young people to adults, young people to organizations. How do we define youth voice? How does society limit or lift up youth voice? Where does youth power currently lie and how are we enabling them to push the line.
- Lots of people were talking about "Coordinating" as crucial.

Closing Activity

- Pick a postcard that reflects your hopes and vision for what we will accomplish.

Adjourn 7:15 p.m.