



Coordinating Council for Children, Youth and Families

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2016

5:15 p.m. – 7:23 p.m.

344 Broadway

Summary

Summary of Conversation Topics

- CYC presentation
- Review of the proposal for the Family Policy Council's focus areas and work plan for the 2016-2017 cycle

Key Agreements

- Over the summer Nancy and volunteers will work on the Summer Action Plan to be presented to the Family Policy Council in September.

Next Steps

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

What	Who	By When
Save the dates for the proposed meeting schedule for 2016-17 (3 rd Thursday of the month, 5:15-7:15 pm unless otherwise noted): <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Thursday, September 15, 2016○ Thursday, October 20, 2016○ Thursday, November 17, 2016○ Thursday, January 19, 2017○ Thursday, February 16, 2017○ Thursday, March 16, 2017○ Thursday, May 4, 2017	All Family Policy Council members and affiliates	
Work on the Summer Action Plan to be presented to the Family Policy Council in September	Nancy Tauber and volunteers	September, 2016



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Detailed Notes

Present:

Mayor Denise Simmons, Neal Michaels, Tina Alu, Griffin Andres, Naia Aubourg, Amy Bebergal, Ron Benham, Manikka Bowman, Lace Campbell, Marly Ciccolo, Tony Clark, Andrea Collymore, Jan Devereux, Margaux Froute, Mari Gashaw, Michelle Godfrey, Kim Goldstein, Dwayne Green, Robert C. Haas, Liz Hill, John Lindamood, Alanna Mallon, Kester Messan, Veronique Merrit, Laetititia Moubarek, Rosa Munson-Blatt, Rihana Oumer, Mike Payack, Monique Reyes, Julie Roach, Olivia Scott, Ellen Semonoff, Nancy Tauber, Miles Toussaint

Co-Chairs: Mayor Simmons and Neal Michaels

Executive Director: Nancy Tauber

Content Manager: Mike Payack

Desired Outcomes:

- Understand the work of the Cambridge Youth Council
- Agreement on Family Policy Council 2016-17 Proposal

Socialize, Network and Eat

5:15 pm – 5:30 pm

Call to Order:

5:30 pm

- Welcome & Introductions (Neal Michaels)
 - Neal Michaels welcomed attendees and started a round of introductions
- Adoption of Minutes (March 17, 2016 meeting)
 - Ellen Semonoff moved to adopt the minutes for the March 17, 2016 meeting
 - Griffin Andres seconded motion
 - Motion carried - minutes adopted

- Public Comment
 - No public comment
- Announcements
- Recognize members leaving – Hand out Proclamations to:
 - Griffin Andres served 3 years on CYC and 2 years on Family Policy Council
 - Andrea Collymore served 9 years on Family Policy Council and the Executive Committee
 - Olivia Scott – 3 years on CYC and co-chair
 - Margaux Froute – 2 years on CYC
 - Staisha Foster-Jarvis – 1 year CYC
 - Laetitia Moubarak – 1 year CYC
 - Monique Reyes – 1 year on CYC
- Meeting schedule for 2016-17
(3rd Thursday of the month, 5:15-7:15 pm unless otherwise noted):
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 - Thursday, March 16, 2017
 - Thursday, May 4, 2017
- Graduating seniors shared their post-graduation plans.
- Food Pantry Collection Drive
 - Items will be brought to the CRLS Food Pantry
 - Donations can be made throughout the school year and summer
 - Liz Hill suggested that others may want to donate. She is going to reach out to a parent in her classroom to see if Microsoft wants to organize a donation drive.
 - Michelle Lower is going to try to organize a drive through Alexandria Real Estate.

CYC Presentation:

- Washington DC trip to National League of Cities presentation
- Overview of Raw Perspectives Project
- Overview of Workshops for 8th graders
- Plans for 2016-2017

2016-2017 Proposal:

- Nancy explained the process for developing the proposal (past meetings, consult with Exec. Committee and CYC)
- The Family Policy Council and CYC should continue doing the following:
 - Enhancing Family Policy Council partnerships

- Increase dialogue between Family Policy Council, CYC and the Superintendent and School Committee.
 - Family Policy Council and CYC should work together more.
- Continue investigating the feasibility of creating a Find It Network in Cambridge that builds off of the Find It website project.
 - Find It Cambridge Update will be on Family Policy Council agendas
 - Continue to support the hiring of a Find It Manager.
 - Identify places to establish a Find It outposts (information hubs) for families.
- Continue supporting the Community Engagement Team
 - CET updates will be on Family Policy Council agendas.

2. Addressing Opportunity Gaps in Cambridge

- DRAFT Problem Statement: There are disparities between those who have access to academic and extracurricular opportunities in high school, which is evident by the disproportionately lower number of people of color and/or low-income students taking advanced courses. ***Is there anything missing or needs to be changed?***
 - Need to define what we mean by “access”.
 -
- DRAFT Goal: All students should be given adequate support, academic preparation, information and encouragement so that they all have equitable access to the educational and extracurricular opportunities available in high school (especially advanced classes). ***Is there anything missing or needs to be changed?***
 - Is advocacy included?
 - Should we use a broader term - instead of low income and/or people of color, use the term underprivileged
- DRAFT Summer Action Plan:
 - Draft a policy addressing how the city, school and community organizations can address the problem stated above (make sure equity, race and income issues are included).
 - Begin developing a process for convening stakeholders to address opportunity gaps in Cambridge:
 - Figure out which stakeholders (school, students, families, Agenda for Children, College Success Initiative, Middle School Network, Safetynet, STEAM, CET, 0-8 Council, Cambridge Teacher’s Association, etc.) should be included in this work to connect the dots between the many initiatives and cross-collaborative planning efforts in Cambridge.
 - Start identifying current activities and existing efforts that can be enhanced. Then figure out how to communicate these opportunities to students and families.

- ***Other ideas? Is there anything missing? Does anything need to be changed?***
- Need volunteers to help.
 - Family Policy Council and CYC members
 - Others?
 - ***Pass out sign-up sheet for volunteers.***
- Survey Mayor's Youth Summer Employment (MYSEP) youth in order to get a better understanding of the experience of students who are and who are not taking advanced classes.
- Cambridge Youth Council will continue supporting other students.
 - Continue supporting 8th graders.
 - Continue to bring student leaders together to understand what is already being done to reduce Opportunity Gaps and create ways to work together
 - Continue Cambridge Raw Perspectives Facebook campaign
 - Possible new initiatives - start supporting 5th graders.
 - Work with Family Policy Council to create opportunities for students to share their stories with teachers, Upper School leadership, families and others in the community, as well as figure out a way to take action.
 - Work with the Family Policy Council to develop the policy(ies)

Adjourn:

7:05 pm

- Neal Michaels moved to adjourn the May 19, 2016 meeting of the Family Policy Council
 - Ron Benham seconded motion
- Motion carried – meeting adjourned