



Thursday, March 26, 2026
Citywide Senior Center
806 Mass Avenue, Cambridge, MA

Summary of Conversation Topics

- Cambridge Caring Adult 101 Guide Postcards
- Cambridge Police Department and Safetynit

Chair Sumbul Siddiqui

Members: Tina Alu, Shakia Afrose, ~~Johanny Castillo~~, Joseph Corazzini, ~~Caitlin Dube~~, Christine Elow, Lida Griffins, Michelle Godfrey, Tabithlee Howard, Kieu Anh Huynh, ~~Michelle Lower~~, ~~Kam Maali~~, Jasper Mallon, ~~Maria McCauley~~, Larisa Mendez-Penate, Dave Murphy, Matt Nelson, ~~Geeta Pradhan~~, Bridget Rodriguez, ~~Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler~~, Liz Stapleton, Tagesech Wabeto, David Weinstein, Yoyo Yau

Executive Director: Nancy Tauber

Notetaker: Andrew Liedtka (Find it Manager)

CYC Coordinator: Izzy Schpeiser

CYC Members: Maia Shen, Lio Caravan, Kabir Caranasi , Audrey Vautier, Tevin Louis, Avi Dupee

Guests: Tracy Rose Tynes, Dawn Baxter, Michele Scott, Jamie Barrett, Mike Medeiro, , Connor Epsteinkraus, Jordan Harvey, Fred Fantini, John Gali, Kessen Green, Angela Alfred

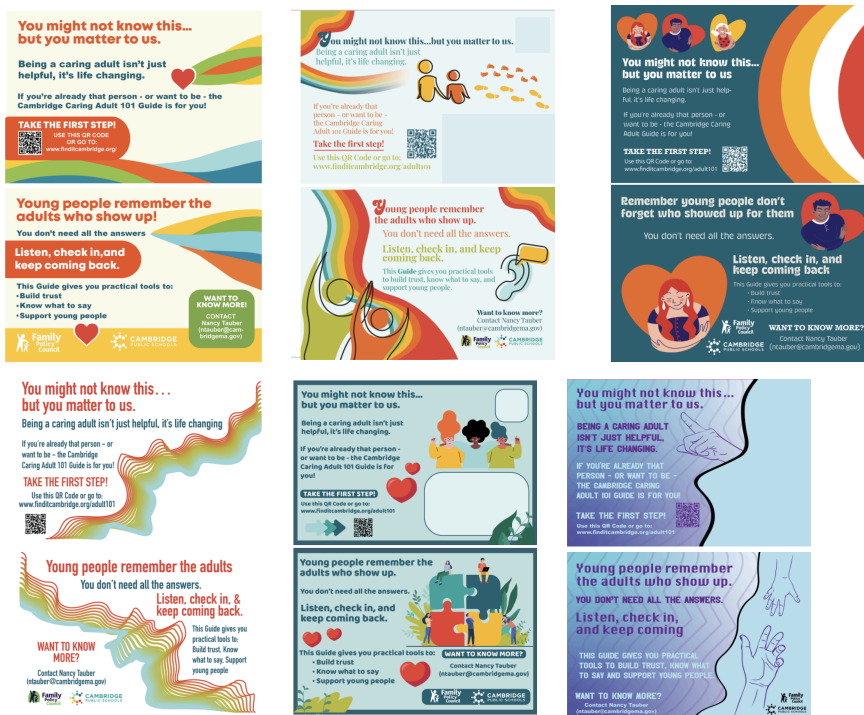
5:30 Welcome and Introductions

- Family Policy Council Business
 - Approval of January 29, 2026 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.

- CYC is not going to the National League of Conference in DC this year. NLC has reduced the number of youth attending the conference. However, they will be going to **Boston on March 28-29** for an overnight trip. We'll stay at a hotel, spend time downtown doing fun team building activities to develop leadership skills. They will report back at the May meeting.
- CYC did a career readiness workshop at CRLS. Staff from the DHSP Office of Workforce Development co-facilitated the workshop with CYC.
- CYC is having a block party on Saturday, May 16. More details to come.
- CYC helped out with a Galentine's Day event in February at Cambridge Street Upper School for middle school girls. Over 100 girls came.
- Know Your Rights and LUCE Training
- Early Childhood Council Survey coming out in mid-April
- Public Health Department - Youth Wellness Grant Applications
- Outstanding City Manager Employee Award Season — submit a nomination online for outstanding employees
- Counted Out/ Count Me In: 30 Day Journey to Reconnect with Math
- Mayor's Women's Health Month Trivia Night tonight at Lamplighter

Caring Adult 101 Guide Postcard Contest

The following designs were created by graphic design students from CRLS. Participants voted on their top 3. Winners will be announced next week.



Cambridge Police Department Safetynet Presentation

Presenters

- Christine Elow
- Jamie Barrett
- Mike Medeiro

Presentation - 📄 **3-26-26 Family Policy Council Presentation**

Q&A

- American Born Black community members may be hesitant to come to the police station
 - Safetynet will meet people at home or in public spaces.
- What does Safetynet do to make sure the precursors that cause crime don't happen/are reduced?
 - CPD Social workers are involved in every meeting
 - They exhaust all community resources before charging someone with a crime.
- SROs in school
 - Want kindergarteners to meet officers to build a positive relationship with them, not see them as a threat or consequence.
 - Changing our view of the police is extremely important. Getting rid of the "good guy/bad guy" mindset. It matters extremely, especially in domestic violence situations when children need to feel safe if an officer is coming into a home to stop an altercation.
 - They changed the uniforms to be softer in the schools (grey pants and a polo).
- Our understanding of domestic violence is extremely different than from what it used to be and the signs. Knowing what abuse looks like. We need more training and stronger partnership in schools. More room to build positive interactions with young people and officers.
- When youth get involved with Safetynet, are the charges retained? Do they stay on their record?
 - Not if it's still at CPD, only once it goes to court, which is what they try to avoid/divert.
- How are we also looking to help our neighbors and community members who were already incarcerated/ part of the criminal justice system who are trying to reintegrate into society.
 - "Emerging adults" 18-26, trying to bring them diversion opportunities.
 - Lots of opportunities fall off at 18.
 - Officers and social workers meet people who are going to reintegrate before they leave the prison and start to make sure they have more of the

supports they need.

- The door knocking campaign had some positive benefits we'd like to see again, especially with uniforms dressed down.
 - It was an effort to bring youth work/information to everyone. Collected volunteers from departments and put information on people's door knobs or directly to them and had conversations.
- Not wearing uniforms is very important to immigrant community members among others.
- How do you manage the layers of complexity in adults/community members who have experiences that make them distrustful of Safetynet services?
 - Inviting different family members or community members that have relationships with people they may be serving.
 - Doing more outreach and trying to facilitate deeper relationships and trust-building.
- When a youth enters the diversion system at step 0 or 1, how do they figure out where youth have existing relationships?
- What if they don't want to share information about themselves? They work with partners who already have a relationship or knowledge of youth to find to make those connections.
- Stage 0 - Community Safety Department Care Team is a huge partner in keeping youth and families from progressing beyond stage 0.
- Cadet program
 - Helps people get careers in CPD
 - They receive tuition reimbursement
 - Cambridge could bring a cadet program to RSTA through Chapter 74
- Are there needs they see that are unmet that we could advocate for.
 - Mental Health at the forefront.
 - Helping people navigate basic applications and access to services.
 - Community members who could help by bringing cases to Safetynet. People knowing when to bring cases forward.
 - What are we doing to help older adults/unhoused adults who face the same issues/situations that lead to crime or entrance to the criminal justice system. Street outreach team tries to do a lot of this work delivering services.
 - Sometimes they have to bring a charge to get them into the Specialty Court Program.
 - Elana (CPD social worker) does a lot of work in warrant clearing.
 - Warrants for unhoused adults who miss court dates and then warrant is issued that's normally mailed, CPD takes it, tries to track

the person down, and get it cleared.

- Are there root cause measures being sought rather than reactive ones that can escalate the situation.
 - Takes all of us to address systemic issues. Arresting and jailing people isn't a plausible solution.
- Do SROs go to places where youth are outside of the public schools? Charter, private, etc.
- Do you have language training for SROs for them to feel more comfortable with the community?
- Some organizations have clients that are at 0 or at 5. Social workers learning to coach/communicate with youth would be super helpful.
- SRO's are very well trained at CRLS and are people of color.
- Immigrant community - hard to differentiate between police and ICE.
- Cartwheel and CBHC walk-in are essential resources. No wait list.
- 3rd spaces are lacking in Cambridge. Youth - especially teens need a place to hang out that does not cost money.
- Can Cambridge, FPC, other departments look into solving the door knocking dissolution situation?
- Could we get the school days/helpers back? DPW, firefighters, police, and others who go into schools and meet youth, do activities, talk about what they do, etc.

Next steps

- The last meeting of the year is Wednesday May 6th. We will continue the tradition of making this meeting be CYC Takeover.

Adjourn 7:15