

Family Resources of Natick



FRN Community Council Meeting
Friday, January 18, 2019, 10:00-11:30am
Cole Center, 179 Boden Lane, Natick

Minutes

Present:

Pam Koskovich (FRN), Kirk Downing (Natick Public Schools), Adiel Gutierrez (Tobin School), Toni Fecteau (SMOC/Headstart), Melody Rolon (Child Care Resources), Julie Hanes (Criterion-Middlesex Early Intervention), Lorraine McNally (Natick Council on Aging), Linsey Evans (FRN)

The meeting began with welcome and introductions.
Minutes from Sept. 27th meeting approved.

Kirk Downing

- Discussed how FRN can facilitate communication between pre-school/care providers for K transition.
- NPS working together with providers to developing a form to fill out to for NPS to share more information about incoming students.
- Shared K transition timeline so providers can pass along to families.
- NPS wants to make this an ongoing collaboration and will discuss ELL families in March and NPS curriculum in May meetings.

Updates from Attendees:

- Melody from Child Care Resources reported that the waitlist is currently up to families who applied March 2018. You should call every few weeks/month to check on status. Gov't shutdown: SNAP recipients get their February benefits in January, but funds need to be used by the end of January; WIC is ok at the moment as it is partially state funded, but unsure if it will continue to be the case. EEC had a center based childcare increase in voucher rates as of July, 1st, so parents may be able to reduce their parent fee for childcare. Families can call the Worcester office to make an appointment at the satellite offices in Framingham and Milford. EEC is now accepting Direct Deposit for voucher payments, so no longer have to come to office to receive them.
- Julie Hanes from Criterion Early Intervention shared HelpSteps online resource, a collaboration with Boston Children's Hospital, United Way, The Greater Boston Food Bank and the Boston Public Health Commission. It has multiple languages available and there is a phone app as well.

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- Lorraine McNally, Natick Council on Aging, wondered if we were seeing additional needs from Grandparents, who were primary caregivers for children due to Opioid Crisis, because of the government shutdown. Refer to Council on Aging if needed.
- Adiel Gutierrez of Tobin School, shared they are running a diaper drive for Metrowest Diaper Bank

Updates from FRN:

- FRN was honored by SPARK kindness at a showing of Mr. Rogers's film at TCN for our community involvement with children. Hoping to bring more attention to our program.
- Shared Spark for Kindness Single Dads group that will be taking place on 6 Monday nights in Feb. – April.
- Selection Committee for FY20 program coordinator to begin this month. Looking for an additional council member to serve on the hiring committee along with Julie Hanes.
- Saturday March 9 - FRN will be part of an Intergenerational Sock Hop at the Community-Senior Center. We will be reading Duck Sock Hop by Jane Kohuth and doing activities for our youngest friends. This is a collaborative event with Council on Aging and Recreation & Parks Dept.
- FRN holding an event on child development in April/May; Leila Mercer, Julie Hanes, Melody Rolon and Adiel Gutierrez all indicated they would like to be involved. We'll set a date in early April; we need a name for the event, a theme and will set up a sign-up genius for participation.
- Pam agreed to send info on the ASAP and other before/after-school programs in Natick to Melody

As mentioned above, ACCEPT Education Collaborative has requested that two members of the FRN Community Council be involved in the hiring process for a new Program Coordinator for FY20, which will begin in early 2019.

Proposed upcoming meetings in March and May; Pam will circulate a Doodle poll to schedule firm meeting dates for early spring and late spring.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.