

Family Resources of Natick



FRN Community Council Meeting
Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018 10:00-11:30am
Cole Center, 179 Boden Lane, Natick

Minutes

Present:

Pam Koskovich, Teresa Iodice of FCC Preschool, Helida Johnson of WIC, MaryBeth Kinkead of Natick Preschool, Melody Rolon of Child Care Resources, Leila Mercer and Vicky Racine of Natick Board of Health, Linsey Evans (FRN)

The meeting began with welcome and introductions.

Updates from Attendees:

- Teresa reported that FCC Preschool still has openings in all age groups (8am-4pm)
- Leila introduced Vicky, a nursing student working with the Natick Board of Health. In addition to the flu shot clinics and lead testing for preschool, the Town can also provide immunizations for Natick children who don't have a health provider. With regard to flu shots, Pam will follow up with Karen Rufo about the school/family clinics, and Linsey will post the Board of Health flu shot clinic info at FRN and on our Facebook page.
- Helida summarized the WIC program for those present, and offered again to provide the "Happiest Baby on the Block" program for Natick parents with infants; ages 0-3 mos (would include up to 6 mos), need 5 families to schedule program. FRN will talk with attendees at Friday baby group to elicit interest. Helida also shared the update that WIC is not included in the "public charge" grounds of inadmissibility for immigrants, so families should not be afraid to use WIC services.
- Melody from Child Care Resources reported that the waitlist is currently up to families who applied October 2017, and hasn't moved in 6 months. The current wait is 2 mos. to 2 years, depending on the family's situation. Families should call 2-1-1 directly rather than calling CCR, because in some situations they could receive immediate assistance.

Updates from FRN:

- Pam shared that she is planning to retire on June 30, 2019 (end of FY19 grant year.)
 - FRN is working on a budget amendment wherein Pam will reduce hours for the remainder of the year (dating to when the amendment is approved), and Linsey will increase hours to take on more program coordination and train with Pam on administrative tasks and grant writing in the spring.
 - ACCEPT will begin hiring process in January, and has requested 2 members of the Community Council to participate, along with Linsey.

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- Saturday playgroups at Morse Institute have been suspended for FY19, as Judy Dixon is no longer able to facilitate and a replacement has not been found. In addition, space at Morse was not available for all of the dates needed. Pam will meet with Linda Stetson, library Director, after the holidays to rethink how FRN and Morse can collaborate on programming.
- Bridges Together grant for intergenerational programming: Pam and Karen Partanen from the Natick Recreation & Parks Dept. will be taking the lead on a Sock Hop event in mid-winter (perhaps around Valentines Day) to take place at the Community-Senior Center and involve families with young/elementary children and senior citizens together.
- Pam and Linsey are meeting October 3 with Kirk Downing, Interim Asst. Superintendent of Natick Public Schools, to begin the process of collaborating with NPS on creating a video about going to kindergarten in Natick.
- FRN is considering holding an event in the spring to focus on child development; Leila Mercer indicated that she would like to be involved.

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 January 2019.

Pam reported that no progress has been made on the Resource Guide since the June meeting.

Proposed upcoming meetings: 12/5, 3/7 and 6/5. Pam will circulate a Doodle poll to schedule firm meeting dates for winter, early spring and late spring.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.