

Essex LAUNCH Young Child Wellness Council (YCWC)
Tuesday, December 6, 2016 2:30-4:30pm at The Waterfront- Newark, NJ
DRAFT Meeting Notes

Attendees: Nina Alstrom (Newark Mayor’s Office), Shazia Aslam (PMCHNNJ), David Armstrong (ECCYC), Marsha Atkind (HFNJ), Karen Benjamin (EPPC), Latarsha Burke (NJDCF), Stacey Carter (PMCHNNJ), Christina Colon (NJDCF), Eddie Concepcion (YAP), Diane Dellanno (ACNJ), Amanda Errico (Family Connections), Jillian Faulks-Majuta (VNAHG), Danielle Francois (FJC), Gisele Gaulden (Family Connections), Ethel Gilbert (DFAB), Rebecca Haddock (CAECMH), Karen LaRussa (EO Health Dept.), Leslie Lester (YCS), Viki Monasse (EPPC), Andrea O’Neal (NJDCF), Elizabeth Paterno (PCANJ), Emily Perez (PMCHNNJ) Janien Reeves (MCDBEC), Rachel Ruel (IPO-CHW), Kiesha Scott (PMCHNNJ), Kate Shoemaker (SWCA), Maria Vazquez (EPPC), Sharon Webber (FSO)

Phone participants: Amanda Blagman (PfP), Daniela Hellman (NJDCF), Ronda Littleton-Johnson (ECCYC), Deborah Johnson (NJDCF), Cortney Mott (NJAAP), Carmen Balacco (Family Link), Beverly Lynn (PfP), Kristen Ojo (JHU), Lenore Scott (NJDCF)

Agenda item	Discussion	Outcome and Action Items
I. Welcome and introductions	Viki opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Karen reminded the group that the purpose of Project LAUNCH is to improve the social-emotional wellness of children 0-8 and their families who live in East Orange, Irvington, Newark, and Orange, with a focus on prevention and reducing disparities; our goal is not to develop new services necessarily, but to better coordinate the many programs we have to better serve families. Each participant introduced him/herself.	
II. Healthy Families VNA Annual Service Review (ASR)	Jillian Faulks-Majuta, Healthy Families-TIP Supervisor, presented her program’s information for 7/2015 - 6/2016 to the group for review and feedback as part of their accreditation process with Healthy Families America. Info included target population, staffing, strengths, opportunities for growth, cultural sensitivity, and quality assurance (see handout for details). Karen noted that our group could serve as a venue for other community programs needing similar feedback for quality improvement, etc.	Suggestions for Jillian were to connect to the Health Officers within Essex County, partner with school based health centers run by Jewish Renaissance Medical Center, and provide trauma informed training for staff. Karen LaRussa and Marsha Atkind offered to help make some of these connections if needed. Anyone interested in more info on the program can contact Jillian at 973-412-2000.

<p>III. Annual stakeholder survey</p>	<p>Kristen Ojo from Johns Hopkins University conducted the Annual Stakeholder Survey of our Young Child Wellness Council. The purpose is to measure the extent of collaboration among YCWC partners over time. She provided instructions on how to complete and submit the surveys. Surveys from in-person attendees were collected. Phone participants were asked to submit surveys by email (cmrcer4@jhu.edu).</p>	<p>JHU will provided a summary of the survey feedback at an upcoming meeting in 2017.</p>
<p>IV. Program updates/highlights:</p> <p>Pre-K suspension/expulsion workgroup</p> <p>LAUNCH related programs</p> <p>Environmental scan and resources</p>	<p>Diane Dellanno reported that a group was formed by MSU and ACNJ, with 1 call so far to look at this issue in NJ. The group has had contact with Walter Gilliam, PhD, a researcher with expertise on this topic, especially with respect to racial disparities. The workgroup is exploring having Dr. Gilliam present in NJ in the coming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen referenced the handout with updates. • Christina Colon stated that employment assistance is a frequent need of families and she asked for resources. • Rebecca Haddock reminded the group about the upcoming Circle of Security training 4/24-4/27 (flyer and application were distributed). • Andrea O’Neal announced that La Casa de Don Pedro has several openings. • Gisele Gauden announced that Family Connections is seeking an Early Childhood Specialist for their Launching Incredible Kids program. <p>Viki reported that several people have expressed interest in helping to guide, edit, and maintain the Environmental Scan. She is looking to convene the group in January via meeting or phone call. One challenge is to keep up to date on the resources available to Essex families.</p> <p>Resource updates mentioned at this meeting included: <u>New programs/resources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatherhood Healthy Relationship Initiative (YAP): Eddie Concepcion, Fatherhood Specialist, briefly described the program. • Joi’s Angels Inner City Emergency Services: Viki and others shared info about supplies they are able to provide to families in need. 	<p>Diane will look into when the next meeting or call of the workgroup will be.</p> <p>Suggested employment-related resources included Hire Newark (Jillian said a client in her program had success in obtaining a job), Jewish Vocational Services (recommended by Marsha Atkind).</p> <p>Find job posting at: www.familyconnectionsny.org/job-opportunities/</p> <p>Anyone interested in joining the workgroup can still contact Viki (vmonasse@pca-nj.org).</p> <p>For more information, contact Eddie at econcepcion@yapinc.org</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expecting and Parenting Program in Essex County: Latarsha Burke explained that this program is a pilot to provide housing and support to teen parents aging out of DCPD services. • Modestly Cover Diaper Bank of Essex County: Janien explained she is establishing a diaper bank; one need she has is space to house the supplies that are donated. • SPAN IPO Doula Program: Rachel Ruel announced this new initiative and invited interested women to attend upcoming info sessions about being trained as community doulas; opportunity is available to selected Essex residents, and preference will be given to women of color, immigrant women, and those who are bilingual. • Weequahic Family Success Center: Viki shared that free diapers are available for families who have identification and who bring child's birth certificate. • 24/7 Dads program: David Armstrong shared this will be starting at the Essex County Family Support Organization in 2017; the program will not be limited to families already engaged with FSO; he referred interested individuals to Sharon Webber from FSO for more info. • Keeping Babies Safe: Marsha Atkind reported that Health Care Foundation for NJ recently funded them to provide cribs to local Essex agencies. <p><u>Programs/resources that will no longer be available:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthright (Bloomfield location only): reported by EPPC • Youth Development Clinic: reported by Marsha Atkind 	<p>To contact Janien with info/suggestion on space, email janien@mcdbec.org</p>
<p>V. Sustainability</p>	<p>Karen shared a handout listing LAUNCH strategy areas, examples of activities done through LAUNCH, and opportunities EPPC is aware of that can help to sustain these or similar types of activities. She requested input from the group about other things to include that we may not be aware of, as well as any needed corrections to the information that is listed.</p>	<p>To provide input on other possible avenues to sustain LAUNCH strategies or to correct any info included on the handout, contact kbenjamin@pca-nj.org.</p>
<p>VI. Other business</p>	<p>Essex LAUNCH YCWC meeting will be held on a quarterly basis, with the next one tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2017 in the afternoon. The meetings will continue to be held within the four cities (East Orange, Irvington, Newark and Orange).</p>	<p>EPPC will send out details about the next meeting in the new year.</p>

<p>Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPPC announced a free domestic violence training they are coordinating with the Essex County Family Justice Center on 12/19. The link to register was on the meeting agenda for anyone interested. • Viki shared that she recently learned about a training “Mental Health First Aid” that is provided by the Montclair YMCA. It is targeted to community members, presents the risk factors and warning signs of mental health illnesses, and educates participants on the proper steps to take to support a person experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. • Ms. Reed, Program Coordinator, provided an overview of the venue and services of The Waterfront (today’s meeting location). 	<p>EPPC will explore if/how we can support this training. The direct contact info for the trainer is: Kimberley Griffiths, Youth Teen & Family Director, 973-415-6102, kgriffiths@montclairymca.org</p> <p>For more info about The Waterfront, contact Ms. Reed at 973-485-5602.</p>
<p>Meeting adjournment and networking</p>	<p>Thank you to all who attended or called in. Those who were able to stayed for networking following the meeting.</p>	<p>EPPC will send out details about the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for 3/7/17, in the new year.</p>