

NOTES

TUESDAY, November 12, 2024

6:30-7:30pm

U28 COMMUNITY NETWORK FOR CHILDREN ADVISORY COUNCIL

(for Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, Wendell)

Start time: 6:31 pm

Attendees: Gillian Budine (CNC Coord), Brieta Goodwin (CNC Prog Assist), Anne Magill (SES Principal), Sue Hamlett (Seven Hills), Nicole Sutka (Early Childhood Special Educator, SES Pre-K Teacher), Jennifer Koonz (co-chair, parent, U28 Physical Therapist), Carla Zhingre (Enrollment Head Start), Rachael Basdekis (Kindergarten SRS), Shannon White-Cleveland (U28 Superintendent), Valerie Killebrew (parent)

"The mission of the Union 28 Community Network for Children Program is to engage and strengthen families with young children in our community through partnership and collaboration."

AGENDA

PRESENTATION

1. Welcome - Shannon White-Cleveland the "new" Union 28 Superintendent of Schools.
2. Reviewed [notes](#) from October 1, 2024 meeting - no questions or comments
3. Program/organization updates and sharing
 - a. Please send any information you would like to be included in the minutes or shared widely to cnc@erving.com

Sue - Seven Hills

Vouchers are NOT frozen - Families that get DTA Cash or are involved with DCF automatically get a voucher, if families have a current voucher and a renewal comes up, as long as their paperwork is complete, vouchers will be issued normally.

Actively adding to the waitlist, but not pulling from the waitlist.

Programs that have contracted slots can fill their open slot from the waitlist.

Nicole - SES Pre-K

Large 3 year old group, great beginning of the year.

Expanded Pre-K hours to accommodate K-6 school day.

Involving the Pre-K in as many school-wide events as possible to augment their role in the school community.

Leverett Fire Dept visited recently, very fun and successful.

The Union #28 Community Network for Children program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Union #28 Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, the Union 28 schools and donations from the Community.

Gillian - - for the future - discussion of Positive Solutions parent workshop in partnership with Nicole.

Anne - SES Principal
Great start to the year
The community is very connected to the school.
Getting ready for Family Conferences.

Rachael - SRS K
Great start to the school year, routines, outdoor learning.
Fire Safety program successful event.

Carla - Head Start Enrollment
Franklin Cty - low waitlist for home visiting programs, and part-day programs, full day/full year programs (these do require a voucher).

Shannon - U28 Superintendent
Busy with mid fall activities in all schools, including caregiver conferences

Gillian shared CNC Updates

Fundraising

1. **FunHub** - January 10th 3-6pm - CNC will receive 25% of admission sales - anyone can attend, must show a fundraiser flyer (digital or paper). We are beginning to advertise and will be doing much more as it gets closer.
 - a. **Valerie** - suggests adding a table to help encourage attendance. Ideas: free books, door prize
 - i. **Valerie** will offer Sibies gift certificate.
 - b. **Jennifer** - suggests to distribute a district-wide paper copy to send home to families.
 - i. **Gillian** - will get ¼ size flyers printed for distribution.
 - ii. **Valerie** offered to distribute to Cushman Scott Families.
2. **Unipay link** - CNC now has the ability to receive funds through Unipay. Gillian will wait until after the New Year to do a push for fundraising.
 - a. Unipay link can be found here:
<https://sites.google.com/erving.com/cncprogram/home>
3. **501c3 application update/process** -
 - a. EIN is still active.
 - b. Gillian is meeting with Caitlin Sheridan (U28 Finance Director) to see how the 501c3 status will fit with U28, and what next steps are in terms of the district.
 - c. Board of Directors - Gillian hopes that we can form this in part from a subcommittee of the advisory group, and then recruit others (from the district, community members, etc)

CNC Programs

4. **Erving Playgroup status** (Mondays 10-11:30am) - Very well attended - attendance has been an average of 18-21 children per week plus their caregivers. Based on the success of the 12

sessions CNC funded for the fall, Erving Library is funding 12 sessions for the spring and looking to put the funding for the playgroup in the budget for next year.

- Families are coming from neighboring towns primarily, with low Erving attendance.
- Gillian is sending out mailings to Erving families to encourage attendance.
- All other CNC programs have been well attended this fall. Clothing Closet open house was successful.

Jennifer asks if the Clothing Closet is low on any items - **Gillian** reports that the Closet is in need of coats and snow pants (the closet serves sizes 0-14y, the Closet also provides diapers for families).

- Leverett Church is giving grocery gift cards to CNC to distribute to families.
- Diemand Farm is giving 2 turkeys - Gillian has contacted 2 CNC families to receive these.

Sharing Family Impact statements with EEC - Gillian will bring pictures and statements to help make a strong impact to encourage the EEC to robustly fund the program.

2025 Cultural Council grants- Submitted/Mucho Gusto - New Salem CC is not funding, but waiting on the other 4 town CC's to see how many sessions we can provide, and how much money we will have available to fund this program. This will be scheduled for the Spring 2025.

2025 New Salem Academy grant - Submitted & Awarded - Bonding with Books \$650 has been awarded! David Feinstein will be leading this group.

- 1 session virtually online (evening)
- 1 session in person in the morning with childcare and a snack available. (these will occur in the Spring)
- Gillian notes that New Salem Academy and CNC collaboration with Dolly Parton Imagination Library (gifts 3 books per month to ages 0-5) has expanded to Erving - in our area they are currently serving New Salem, Wendell, Orange, and now Erving. Hoping the foundation will expand their reach to other U28 towns in the future.

CNC Advisory Council Meeting proposed schedule for 2024-2025

- Tuesday, January 28 @ 1:30 pm virtual meeting
- Tuesday, March 25th @ 6:30 pm virtual meeting
- Tuesday, May 27, @ 1:30 pm virtual meeting

5. Other Items to Discuss

- **Rachael** - Lucy Legacy Foundation Grant has had few applicants, wrapping up this round of funding - meeting on Dec 11th.

CNC should consider applying for this.

Ideas: Extending programming, open to broad grant request, educational materials - **Gillian** will work on applying for this.

- **Gillian** - Parent Child+ Serves families 16 mos - 4 yrs old. Currently 8-9 families being served, we have the opportunity to fund 10

families. 2x per week home visits and children can be enrolled in the program for 2 years. We can likely have one more family enroll.

6. Tasks for next Council meeting:

Action items

- Gillian - Apply for Lucy Legacy Grant
- CNC - continue to work toward 501c3 status
- Ramp up advertising for FunHub Fundraiser - print flyers and distribute.
- Schedule programs that are CC & NS Academy grant funded.
- Gillian - determine day/time for Language and Movement - virtual parent workshop.

Next mtg. Time and Location: **Tuesday, January 28 @ 1:30 pm Virtual**

Meeting adjourned: 7:20 pm