

**Self Help, Inc. CFCE Advisory Council Meeting  
February 15, 2022  
ZOOM**

**Members Present:**

- Jen Hayes, BAMSI
- Dulci Orozco, Council Chair and parent
- Nancy Sullivan, Brockton Self Help Inc., Head Start
- Linda Milne, Brockton Housing Authority
- Roxi Duarte, Braintree Housing Authority
- Beth Gaffney, CACCI Child Care Network
- Kathleen DiBona, Healthy Imperatives
- Meg Quirke, Middleborough Public Schools/FRC
- Amanda Meyer, Middleboro Children's Librarian
- Lokia Small, Justice Resource Institute
- Melissa Newman, The Mentor Network
- Leslie Dunn, SHI CFCE
- Marsha Wright, SHI CFCE
- Jen Moriarty, SHI CFCE

**Welcome and Introductions:** At 10:30 am, Jen Moriarty welcomed the members and asked if everyone received the minutes from the previous meeting. All present introduced themselves and the program they represented.

**Minutes from 12/21/21:** The Council was asked if they had reviewed the minutes, and Leslie shared her screen to let everyone have a few minutes to look them over.

Roxi Duarte *made a motion to accept the minutes.*

Melissa Newman *seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Leslie Dunn, CFCE Director, provided the Council with a few updates: FY 23 grant year was supposed to be a competitive grant. However, EEC has decided to make it a renewal year. FY 24 will be a competitive grant. Last week's statewide meeting spoke about two primary goals for FY24's competitive grant. The first goal is to have CFCEs connect with Early Education and Care providers in their areas. The second area of focus will be updating CFCE Councils. What, why, and how for the Council. We will have future discussions on changing things up for the Council. EEC is hoping there will be additional funding in the FY24 competitive grant. We are pleased that it's not this year due to the challenges of COVID, but we are hoping there will be additional opportunities for increased funding and different services. Whatever they put out, we will go for it.

We have hired a CFCE Program Specialist to replace Karen Mitchel, who retired last year. Her name is Hayley Snow, and her anticipated start date will be February 28. She used to work for CFCE and has experience doing the work. We are excited to have her join the team and hopefully join us at the next Council Meeting.

**Strengthening Partnerships Framework Activity:** Marsha Wright CFCE Program Specialist revisited the 5 Guiding Principles that are the basis of the framework.

1. Each family is unique, and all families represent diverse structures
2. Diversity is expressed and experienced at all multiple levels
3. Building a respectful, trusting, and reciprocal relationship is a shared responsibility
4. Families are their child's first and best advocate
5. Family Engagement must be equitable – How are we, CFCE, delivering our services? Are we reaching all the families that we want to reach?

What are the Elements?

1. Building positive relationships
2. Promoting pathways for partnerships with families
3. Promoting family well-being
4. Supporting child and youth development and learning

Because it is the second half of the school year we need to reflect on our goals and see how we are doing. How are we doing programmatically at meeting our goals. We still struggle to reach some of our families like those who are new to our country. We are thinking in creative ways of how to promote our programs to hard-to-reach families like churches, mosques, etc.

Our CFCE's Building Positive Relationships (BPR) goals are:

BPR Goal 1: Intentionally build and sustain relationships with families

BPR Goal 2: Build reciprocal and balanced communications with families

BPR Goal 3: Collaborate with families to create and/or promote connections among families

Our Promoting Family Well-Being (PFWB) goals are:

PFWB Goal 1: Employ multiple strategies to connect families with resources to enhance family well-being.

PFWB Goal 2: Engage community members/agencies/organizations in a meaningful way to families

PFWB Goal 3: Identify and address barriers families experience in accessing community organizations and services. A huge barrier for many of our families is transportation.

Our Promoting Pathways and Partnership with Families (PPPF) goals are:

PPPF Goal 1: Partner with families in identifying and planning engagement activities.

PPPF Goal 2: Use family driven approaches to create varied opportunities for engagement

PPPF Goal 3: Provide opportunities for family contribution to the engagement process

PPPF Goal 4: Provide opportunities for family membership and voice

PPPF Goal 5: Share power and decision-making with families – we look to Head Start as a model for how to involve parents in every aspect of decision-making

PPPF Goal 6: Support families civic engagement activities

Our Supporting Child and Youth Development, Learning and Health and Well-Being (DLHW) goals:

DLHW Goal 1: Develop multi-pronged systems of information exchange among families, schools, and community organizations to enhance child and youth development, learning, health, and well-being –

Our parent ambassador project is developing a special page on our website where we will ask for contributions to help parents and families find access to mental health services.

DLHW Goal 2: Identify collaborative development and learning opportunities among families, schools, and community organizations

DLHW Goal 3: Engage families through peer-to-peer interactions – our playgroups are ways for our families to be with each other.

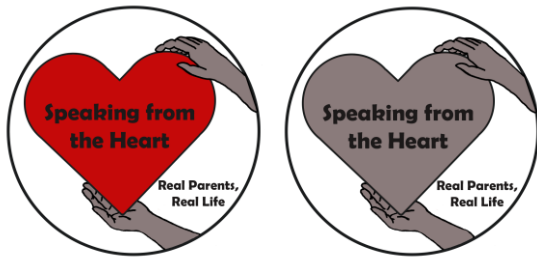
### **Poll on Framework Elements –**

The group did an activity together to identify what elements belong with what goals to help the group focus on the elements.

- Families should be the ones creating their goals and informing their choices
- The families need to identify their focus not just the staff. As staff we need to understand the family's current goals to know how to help
- If we want to find out why families are not participating in our programs, we need to ask them
- With 23 communities to support, we rely on the families to identify and share some of the many resources within their communities
- Families need to identify their child's learning needs. CFCE staff can assist

Marsha is willing to visit agencies to work with staff on implementing strengthening partnerships between our organizations.

**CFCE Parent Ambassadors Project:** Dulce Orozco, Council Chair and Parent Ambassador, shared updates about the project. The group came up with a tagline for their program, "real parents, real lives, speaking from the heart." Jen created a few logo options.



The survey showed that 45% of the respondents lost someone from COVID. During COVID, 50% said they were surviving instead of thriving. The group is creating videos to bring awareness to topics important to families. Grief is the topic they decided to focus on for the first informational video. There are many types of grief. We want to normalize and validate all the kinds of grieving we are going through. The second informative video will be asking for help. Thinking about therapy as a prevention and asking for help is a sign of bravery and not weakness. Marsha will create a google doc where we would like to have everyone share resources on children and family mental health.

The second goal of the group is identifying and recruiting more parent ambassadors. The original three ambassadors will help train the new members. The parent café will be at the beginning of June, hoping it is in person. At the café, participants will discuss grief and loss and reach out to therapists. We are creating one-page informational flyers that will reflect the information in the videos. We will translate the flyers to reach all the families we want to serve. Not just translating word-for-word but culturally appropriately as well.

If anyone has any suggestions for this program or additional questions, they can contact Marsha Wright or Gina McGarrigle [mwright@selfhelpinc.org](mailto:mwright@selfhelpinc.org) or [gmcgarrigle@selfhelpinc.org](mailto:gmcgarrigle@selfhelpinc.org)

### **Partner Updates:**

#### **Melissa Newman (The Mentor Network):**

Melissa's agency's name is now The Mentor Network. The Swansea site has been closed, and they are moving into the Fall River area to provide more support. They share a site with Head Start and hope to have their permanent home in Fall River soon. The Brockton site now offers day services for children ages 3 to 5 for ADA services. They will also have an ADA clinic at the Brockton office. They are making significant progress with their families. They are hearing from many families that they are not comfortable with in-person support, so they are still offering telehealth. They hired a Haitian-Creole-speaking staff and a Cape Verdean-Portuguese-speaking staff. Their staffing numbers are up, and they are well on their way to being fully staffed. [mnewman@southbaycommunityservices.com](mailto:mnewman@southbaycommunityservices.com) Or call at 774-274-2213

#### **Lakia Small (Justice Resource Institute):**

The Early Childhood Training Consultation Program (funded through EEC) accepts referrals for childcare, before and aftercare programs. Depending on the center's space and needs, they currently have a hybrid model with in-person or virtual services. The ECTCP program is also revered as the Mental Health Grant. Additionally, they do work in the classroom, including public schools. It is an excellent resource for families in childcare programs where the child, family, or teacher may need additional support. Reach out to them if you know of any families that might benefit from their services. Lakia's contact information is [lsmall@jri.org](mailto:lsmall@jri.org).

#### **Linda Milne (Brockton Housing Authority and SHI Board of Directors):**

BHA works with families who are already housed. Due to the current housing crisis, families that are not currently housed are referred to other agencies section 8 or public housing. They can apply under the Brockton Housing Authority's (BHA) website, [brocktonhousingauthority.com](http://brocktonhousingauthority.com). The BHA works with families currently enrolled in section 8 or public housing that want to purchase their own home business

or continue their education. Networking with groups and being involved with the community help the staff at BHA take care of the families they serve. Linda Milne Brockton Housing Authority -Family Self Sufficiency - [LindaP@brocktonha.com](mailto:LindaP@brocktonha.com)

**Jennifer Hayes (Community Coordinator, Quincy WIC Program):**

This program is for young parents with babies over the age of one or if they have more than one child. It is specific to Brockton., [JenniferHayes@bamsi.org](mailto:JenniferHayes@bamsi.org), 121 Whitwell Street Quincy, MA 02169, Office (617)376-8701, ext. 19, FAX (617)376-8709, Cell (617)257-2432

**Roxi Duarte (Braintree Housing Authority)**

BHA has an increase in participants utilizing the escrow portion of the program. When participants increase their earned income, it increases the escrow funds they receive when they graduate. The homeownership program interest is through the roof. Not every Housing Authority has an FFS program. FSS Coordinator, [FSS@braho.org](mailto:FSS@braho.org)

**Kathleen DiBona, [kdibona@healthimperatives.org](mailto:kdibona@healthimperatives.org)** Healthy families and young parents' support

**CFCE Program Updates:**

**Updates from Leslie Dunn:**

Leslie shared the **CFCE Expenditure budget** on the screen with the Council. CFCE is currently on target for spending. Most of our costs are in the staffing line to serve all 23 communities. From July 2021 through January 2022, CFCE provided 376 Virtual, Live Zoom, In-Person, and Online Parent-Child activities for 2718 parents and 3153 children. In addition, CFCE provided 135 individual services to 61 unique parents and 76 children (services included: pandemic check-in calls, ASQ, Parent Support, resource information, referrals, literacy/craft bags, and transition supports and knowledge). CFCE also assisted 60 families and 138 children with Food and Store gift cards over the holidays in addition to coats, hats, diapers, and wipes.

CFCE and Parent-Child Plus separate the budgets. We had \$38k to serve 12 families when we started the fiscal year. We now have \$55k, and we are serving 17 families. The PC+ staff used to be considered sub-contractors. They have recently been brought on as staff. Initially, the PC+ facilitators were listed under consultants when the budget was created. Their cost has moved to staff on the budget form. The goal of the PC+ program was to move the facilitators to staff to allow them to access benefits.

We are still enrolling in the PC+ program. For children 18 months to three years old that could benefit from a home literacy program, please reach out to Gina McGarrigle. The families must be in Randolph, Rockland, or Holbrook. ParentChild+ <https://selfhelpinc.org/program-services/pc/>

**Gina McGarrigle, PC+ Coordinator** at 508-559-1666 ext 1814 or email: [gmcgarrigle@selfhelpinc.org](mailto:gmcgarrigle@selfhelpinc.org)

Self Help Inc. will be doing the **VITA tax program** starting is up and running providing tax services for households that generally make \$50k or less per year. They are doing in-person, drop off and virtual. In-person are happening by appointment only, on Saturdays at our Brockton Self Help Inc.

site. <https://brocktonvita.org/> The program is facilitated using a combination of virtual and in-person.

Rental Assistance SHI: This funding ends in the fall of 2022. If you have any families behind on rent, please send them our way, and we will do our best to get a payment out to their

landlord. <https://selfhelpinc.org/program-services/rental-assistance/>

Self Help received a small grant to provide food stabilization in seven communities, Sharon, Canton, Holbrook, Norfolk, Norwood, Rockland, and Bellingham. We are providing food access to try to increase their capacity. If you know any places doing an excellent job with food access, send Leslie an email. [ldunn@selfhelpinc.org](mailto:ldunn@selfhelpinc.org)

Homeowner Assistance fund: [https://www.mass.gov/how-to/homeowner-assistance-fund-haf?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_campaign=masshaf&utm\\_medium=paidsearch&utm\\_term=text&utm\\_content=covid\\_eng](https://www.mass.gov/how-to/homeowner-assistance-fund-haf?utm_source=google&utm_campaign=masshaf&utm_medium=paidsearch&utm_term=text&utm_content=covid_eng)

**Updates from Jen Moriarty:**

There is a website available to help families access mental health services for their children. They are guiding you through your child's mental health journey. It has links to clinical help surveys to help a parent determine if their child could benefit from mental health services and other resources. <https://handholdma.org>

The next council meeting is TBD April 2022, at 6:00 PM on Zoom. We don't schedule this meeting until the renewal grant is posted and released. We are anticipating the meeting will be near the end of April.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am

*Respectfully submitted by Jen Moriarty, Self Help Inc. CFCE Parent Child Education Specialist.*