



Jewish United Fund
OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION for JEWISH EDUCATION

Early Childhood Collaborative Meeting Notes

Date: April 23rd, 2018

Location: 30 S Wells

Attendees:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Abby Aloni | Ellyn Weisz | Jody Benishay | Mushky Kulek |
| Anna Hartman | Fern Katz | Karee Bilsky | Nancy Manewith |
| Carla Goldberg | Heidi Cooper | Kate Warach | Nicole Robin |
| Cherene Radis | Holly Krakow | Kathy Kaberon | Rachel Mylan |
| Claudia Rozenberg | Janet Sear | Leanne Nathan | Rachel Weber |
| Debbi Cooper | Jean Losek | Marci Sperling Flynn | Sabrina Townsend |
| Debbi Porter | Jenna Turner | Marissa Gray | Shoshana Safirstein |
| Debra Natenshon | Jennifer Wasserman | Miriam Aberman | Trudi Krames |

Welcome: Counting of the Omer Activity

Why a collaborative and why now:

- In late 2016 we embarked on a strategic planning process and spoke with you, teachers and lay-leaders to identify the assets and challenges we have as a system.
- These conversations showed us that the time was ripe for a comprehensive effort was needed to ensure that high quality programs are more widely accessible to a greater number of Jewish and interfaith families.
- The collaborative will focus on the talent pipeline; creating cultures of excellence and family accessibility.

What is collective impact:

- Collective impact is a framework used to systematically identify areas of concern, brainstorm solutions, and test initiatives.
- Examples of collective impact can be found in [Pittsburgh](#) and [Denver](#)
- There are five elements of collective impact
 - Common Agenda: A common understanding of the problem, and a joint approach to solving the problem through agreed upon actions
 - Shared measurement: Everyone agrees on how to measure and report on progress, with a short list of common indicators identified to drive learning and improvement
 - Mutually reinforcing activities: Coordinated efforts that contribute to the common goals and can be adjusted as needed based on lessons learned.
 - Continuous communication: Consistent and open information sharing among participants to build trust

- Backbone support: Independent, dedicated staff who provides support and key functions for the sustained operation of the collaborative.

Collaborative plan:

- The collaborative will contain six task forces:
 - School portal & parent satisfaction: Expand JUF's website to include a sophisticated portal for finding the Jewish preschool that is right for one's family. Develop a tool to measure parent satisfaction.
 - Business model: Research and define a set of sustainable business models and invite schools to audit their current models and work with pilot schools to adopt a new approach.
 - Standards of excellence: Develop shared standards of excellence that schools can use to prioritize goals and measure progress, including child achievement.
 - Staff Retention: Review and modify educator satisfaction tool and try out creative means of compensation and new approaches to tiering salaries.
 - Staff Recruitment: Engage in a widescale teacher recruitment initiative.
 - Toolkit for new school exploration: Create a toolkit for institutions seeking to investigate the feasibility of launching a new center.
- Each task force will meet once a month for two-hour meetings, and will follow the Plan, Do, Study Act Cycle
 - Plan: Review data, brainstorm solutions, develop initiative implementation plan
 - Do: Implement initiative at pilot schools
 - Study: Utilize data to study the impact
 - Act: Time to reflect. Do we want to scale the initiative to more schools? Do we want to tweak it some more? Or is it not having the result we were looking for?
- Stipends will be provided to schools for those who actively participate in the task forces.
- Please signup for task forces that you might be interested, and let us know if your school might be interested in piloting any initiatives.

Data Collection

- In order to continue to monitor enrollment trends, please fill out this year's census form. It's short than it has been in the past! Due date is June 1st.

Upcoming Events

- Connections: Offered by the Virginia Frank Child Development Center, this 7 week program is free for infant, toddler and two year old educators. Interested participants must register by April 27th.
- Pinsky, Popcorn, and Prosecco: A fun event on May 30th to celebrate a year of learning! Please be sure to RSVP to the invite.
- Leadership Retreat: Please join us for a leadership retreat from July 29-31st at The Hyatt Lodge. The Management Center will lead discussions on: Developing Your People: Focusing on

Feedback; Brutally Prioritizing Your Time; Hiring Superstars; Your Job as a Manager. Please register by June 1st.