**APRIL MTEC COLLABORATIVE MEETING**

**Introductions/Welcome new and visiting members**

**Framing of our work together this year as a Collaborative**

Main objectives this year:

1. Develop a better understanding of the early childhood resources and programs available for Milford families w.Young CH and serve as EC Ambassadors — connecting families with the supports/resources they need
2. Research areas of priority need for our families w/young children and determine best ways to engage w/them. Conduct formal Needs Assessment
3. Determine priority actions and solutions we can take together to meet the identified needs for Milford families with young children.

**Presentation of Parent/Caregiver Needs Assessment (NA) Results**

By PEAR Associates

See attached “MTECC Parent NA Results Presentation;” the slides can also be found on Member Web. These revised slides have more details from the survey results incorporated.

Questions/reactions to NA Results

\* Surprised about the parent comment “looking for more STEM opportunities”

>> Discussion about play-based STEM followed (legos; three little pig play activities; NH Children’s Museum)

>> Clarification made that this was an issue raised by just a couple of parents (it was not a broad response)

* Interesting that families were looking for email communication because that's generally something I try to stay away from

>> Discussion about parents/caregivers in focus groups’ input on Email (one trusted source; easier to receive than to have to search; limit # of emails sent; Milford Rec has had success with their Email listserv

>> The survey listed text and Instagram as options, too, but parent were not interested

\* Milford families really view themselves as Milford families not “Greater Nashua” or Souhegan Valley residents; they really want to know “what is here for us”

\* Discussion about more interest in Parent Cafes and parent-facilitated conversations vs. “talking head”/expert-led conversations or more formal education/classes. (Although there was also an expressed interest in the opportunity to meet with EC Collaborative partners and even a panel format)

\* First Parent Cafe will be led by CAST and co-hosted by Waypoint Family Resource Center and Milford Thrives. The discussion topic focus will be self care.

* Parents expressed interest in events with their kids present (vs. childcare provided), including drop in play groups; parent support groups, etc

\* Interest also expressed for an expectant parent groups/gatherings

Questions around Mental Health/Behavioral health and what is the correct % of families receiving services in Milford?

(Only 10% of families receiving MH/BH services receive them in Milford); and only 8% indicated they currently use Mental Health/Behav Health services; 6% used in past; 21 % didn’t know about Greater Nashua Mental Health’s services

**Next month >> Continue Discussion around Parent/Family Results to help us establish PRIORITIES**

* Next month, we will revisit our takeaways on this parent/caregiver feedback and begin to discuss potential priority areas for the Collaborative to focus on in the upcoming year
* Think about which initiatives and/or barriers/solutions that you as individual members may want to discuss further
* The revised slides have incorporated additional data/results based on Needs Assessment committee member input. We realize Collaborative members who did not serve on the Needs Assessment Committee did not see all of the data/results you may be interested in. Please review the attached “MTECC Parent NA Results Presentation.” If there are any outstanding questions, please contact Joelle. She’s happy to dig into the data/survey results with you.
* These updated summary slides and the raw survey data results are also posted on [Member We](http://www.MilfordThrives.org/members)b.
* Thank you to the Needs Assessment Committee members (Arene Berry, Carrie Santos, Cindy Blanchard, Monica Gallant, Sara Amato-Larabee, Leslie Brigagliano) for all of their work! And to PEAR Associates — a lot of work went into this NA and quality parent engagement activities.

**Provider Survey — Part 2**

* As a follow up to our Collaborative Member Profiles, PEAR will be sending out a brief survey monkey to Collaborative Provider members and other community providers with a few follow-up questions to help inform our priority setting.
* Resource/Service Provider members: look for a Survey Monkey link over the next few weeks — please take a few minutes to fill this out. Thanks so much!

**Parent/Caregiver Communication/Information Resources**

One of clear areas of identified need in the Survey/Focus Group results was the *broad unawareness* of all of the resources, supports and services that are available for Milford families with young children.

Parents expressed interest in Milford-specific parenting/kids information resources; shared with us what types of information they’re interested in; and how they would like to receive that information. As NA/Steering Committees, we were able to secure a grant revision request for our PDG grant award so that unused funds can be utilized to revise and develop parent/caregiver information resources based on NA input.

Based on Focus Group conversations and overall NA input, Carrie and Cindy from Waypoint have also recommended forming a Parent Committee to extend and expand parent/caregiver input/guidance for Collaborative initiatives.

**Other Collaborative Updates….**

Community Events/Family engagement

* *Milford Rec’s Easter egg hunt drive-through* was very successful: there were about 145 vehicles/families and 300+ kids who participated. (The Milford Thrives EC Collaborative booth featured a bubble machine … plus we were next to the Easter Bunny so we got to see the kids reactions to both bubbles and Mr Rabbit :)). Families received a flyer on the Collaborative, along with a pre-paid postcard Target raffle entry tx; Kids received their own bubbles from the Collaborative
* I was also able to represent the COLLABORATIVE @ the SAU’s *K Orientation Zoom* — thank you Leslie Brigagliano for including us. The Collaborative will provide similar giveaways to new Kindergarteners and families when they go to Jacques to register. Melissa has also offered to provide these to her preschoolers and their families.
* Trina McLenon reported that the library will be shifting to in-person, outdoor programming (in the fenced in the side yard) around the middle of May, weather permitting. This will include their Baby Lapsit and story times. Keep an eye on Wadleigh Library’s FB page — we’ll also post it for parents on the Milford Thrives FB page. The Library will also “re-open” their bulletin board — so feel free to share your print flyers.
* Milford Rec shared that a lot of their programming has shifted to Parent/Caregiver and Child offerings. Look at spring offerings, including toddler soccer :)
* CAST/the Boys & Girls Club is planning to host “Community Connection” events at Keyes field on Wednesday afternoons/early evenings this summer. Stay tuned for opportunities to offer fun outdoor activities and games for little ones (and for chance to connect with families).
* Kim Kamienicki shared info/ link for the NAMI NH virtual conference:   <https://www.naminh.org/nami-nh-events/annual-conference/>
* Additional event shares included:

\* Lamprey Health Care will be at SHARE here in Milford on Tuesdays (from 1:30 - 4:30pm) from offering health care regardless of ability to pay. (This includes behavioral health!).  This is a walk in clinic (no appointment necessary)

\* Lynn Lyons community discussion: *Now What: Helping Children (and Parents) Manage Emotionally During Uncertain Times*

Weds, 4/21, 6:30 pm. (see attached flyer)

\* First community PARENT CAFE *Taking Care of Yourself* event hosted virtually by CAST

Weds, 5/19, 7:00 pm   (see attached flyer)

\* New report released from the NH Council on Thriving Children highlighting EC progress in NH (Milford Thrives EC Collaborative received a small mention :))

<https://mypages.unh.edu/sites/default/files/pdg/files/nh_council_for_thriving_children_2020_year_in_review_final_0.pdf>

REMINDER: Milford Thrives FB page is updated daily. Continue to share your events/resources for families