

**CSB Attendees:** Cheryelle Cruickshank, Edie Weber, Joanne Siegel,

**Virtual Attendance:** Kathy Broderick,

**DOHMH Staff:** Janice Chisholm, Reyana McKenzie, Anika Kalra

**Action items:**

- Members will pursue criminal justice, early Intervention, and transition as areas for further development.
- Subcommittee to explore meeting monthly (Virtually).

**Call to Order: 8:37am**

**Meeting Resolution: No resolution was brought up for a vote at this meeting.**

**Member Updates**

**Joanne Siegel:** The Bronx DD Council Family held its annual Family Support Conference on the May 16, 2024. Some 410 individuals attended, including Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz and Congressman Jamal Bowman who offered greetings. About 60 vendors also were present.

The Rose F Kennedy UCEDD has been providing support for the CYSHCN (Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs) project to NYC DOH CYSHCN unit as well as the NYS DOH CYSCHN units in Nassau and Suffolk counties for the past five years.

This work is part of a statewide contract with 3 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities: RFK UCEDD, the University of Rochester - Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities and the Westchester Institute for Human Development. These UCEDD \ Resource Centers provide technical support for local department of health staff as well as families in the form of training, community outreach & education and resource development for these children from birth through 21 years of age. See links below.

[https://www.health.ny.gov/community/special\\_needs/](https://www.health.ny.gov/community/special_needs/)

**Cheryelle Cruickshank :** Over 700 attendees at “Outdoors for Autism,” a family support fair hosted by Include NYC held at (Autism-friendly) Mullaly Park in the Bronx. The fair centered distribution of community resource information for families and their loved ones.

Of note, advocacy is on the rise to create more parks in NYC providing sound , textures, big symbols, etc. to better meet interests of individuals with Autism.

**Edie Weber:** Northeast Bronx hosted a (first!) fundraiser for families with children with recent diagnoses. Over 100 attendees enjoyed this inclusive family event that was fully supported by members of the community, local NGOs and local businesses and provided education, resources, and networking opportunities. Funds raised will be used for sensory equipment and essential services for families.

The Arc Center on Criminal Justice and Disability Pathway to Justice initiative consists of representatives from the DA’s office, Law Enforcement, The Community Affairs of SI, Staten Island University Hospital. The initiative aims to educate law enforcement about how to recognize, engage, and connect individuals with disabilities to resources and services.

**Discussion on Local Services Plan and 2024-2027 Term Planning**



## **Health**

Members identified criminal justice, early intervention (EI) and transitions as areas for further work in 2024. Subcommittee members agreed to explore convening monthly meetings to develop projects to address areas of need that were identified.

The group discussed some of the challenges that exists in EI care.

- Lack of services for parents with newly diagnosed children.
- Lack of staffing for EI Care.
- COVID exacerbated behavioral challenges for individuals with I/DD.

### **Additional Comments & Wrap Up**

- Joanne will send a report from the Office of Special Education Program that highlights service disparities.
- DOHMH will email subcommittee members regarding interest and availability to join monthly virtual meetings.
- DOHMH to consider interest and feasibility for joining the Staten Island Pathway to Justice Initiative.
- Dr. Chisholm provided a recap on the discussion and adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned: 9:37am**