

PAT Meeting #15 11/11/2019, 1:00-3:00 pm

Gregory Jackson Center (519 Rockaway Avenue)

Attendance

- 5 UB backbone staff (Kassa Belay, David Harrington, Danielle Augustine, Amelia Thompson, Dionne Grayman)
- 9 FAB members
- 20 PAT members

Objectives

1. Advance Early Intervention project plans
2. Introduce Shane's Inspiration: Inclusive Playground in Brownsville
3. Share top Early Childhood Equity priorities from FAB & PAT for Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams

Meeting Takeaways

- PAT members shared recommendations for an inclusive playground in Brownsville, ahead of a FAB meeting with [Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration](#).
- PAT members discussed timelines, metrics and additional information needed for UB's three Early Intervention process improvement projects (Family Ambassadors, Screening Protocol, and Referral Follow Ups).

PAT Members' Views

- PAT members identified the following feature as ideal for a playground for young children in Brownsville
 - Centralized seating area to with ease of visibility between parents and children
 - Swing for children in wheelchairs
 - Waterplay option for summer
 - Softer ground material for safety
 - Fun and educational
 - Spiral slide
 - Swings
 - Waterplay that is safe for children with special needs
 - Inclusive for children with disabilities
 - Fence for safety
 - Interactive educational activities
 - Water fountain
 - Cleanliness and ensure no glass on ground

- Safety aspects
- Games for children to play with one another (in groups)
- Sections of play round devoted to different age groups and children of different developmental levels
- Safe seesaw
- Equipment accessible for prewalkers/crawlers
- Shady areas
- Multisensory equipment
- Features that include music notes or options for kids to play music
- Low fence as a protective measure
- Adaptive technology
- Playground that is a draw for people to visit Brownsville
- Theater/stage for performances (amphitheater)
- Safe and offers sensory aspects
- Tables and spaces for parents and gates to separate children of different ages
- Equipment for children in wheelchairs
- Activity range for children of all ages, varying heights to match varying degrees of age appropriateness
- Different sections for different ages
- Space for quiet play for children on the spectrum
- Activities facilitator who engages more people in activities
- Educational features for schools and providers

Updates Inclusive Playground Planning

- Shane’s Inspiration, an organization fostering social inclusion for children with disabilities through the creation of inclusive playgrounds and educational programs that unite children of all abilities, expressed an interest in building an inclusive playground in Brownsville. An existing [Shane’s Inspiration playground exists in West Hartford, CT.](#)
- UB has begun to introduce Shane’s Inspiration to its community-led approach to project design.
 - Toward this end FAB members have met and developed criteria for a successful partnership, values UB looks for in planning partners, features of positive planning process, and questions for Shane’s Inspiration
 - Shane’s Inspiration has been invited to present at the November ‘19 FAB meeting.

Updates Early Childhood Equity Priorities (Top Level recommendations)

- In response to Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President, question, “How do we fix the early childhood system so that children — black boys in particular — are not left behind developmentally?” UB is offering a few key and specific recommendations.
- These recommendations are a synthesis of input from the FAB and PAT.
 - Expand and accurately define high-quality free and/or affordable early childhood care for 0 to 3 year-olds. The definition of “high-quality” should come from families and include:
 - Hours that meet families’ work schedules, including non-traditional hours and hours that cover the entire workday and commute time
 - Accessible, safe locations in every neighborhood
 - Cultural compatibility curriculum, family engagement guidance and increased resident involvement, including as educators and service providers

- A grading system for providers that families understand and that relate to families' definitions of high-quality
- Remove barriers to timely early childhood data and information-sharing between city agencies (e.g. DOHMH and DOE); and between agencies and the residents/communities that produce and rightfully own that data. This recommendation is designed to:
 - Pinpoint and respond to inequities/disparities among geographies and populations
 - Identify successful interventions and understand best practices
 - Improve programs and services in real time
 - Remove data barriers to timely and effective data sharing
- Establish centralized, simple, and fully comprehensive referral processes for early childhood programming
 - This could take the shape of an online portal that families and service providers use to find information for and directly connect to essential early childhood services, including Early Intervention, EarlyLearn Childcare and Home Visiting Programs just as they currently can for 3K/UPK Programs.
 - Growing Up NYC (NYC Children's Cabinet) presents an appropriate starting place, expanding it's resource directory to facilitate referrals to Early Intervention, Home Visiting programs and other early childhood supports, as it currently does for 3K/UPK
 - There are numerous referral systems and processes siloed for various early childhood programs, creating confusion, lack of awareness and other obstacles to access. By creating a "single stop clearinghouse" maintained by municipal government, families and providers alike would be able to easily find and connect to supports and programs.
 - Launching this as part of municipal government ensures backend access to data on referral and enrollment rates that can be used to better understand demand for and access to early childhood programming around NYC.

Discover Together Brownsville Updates

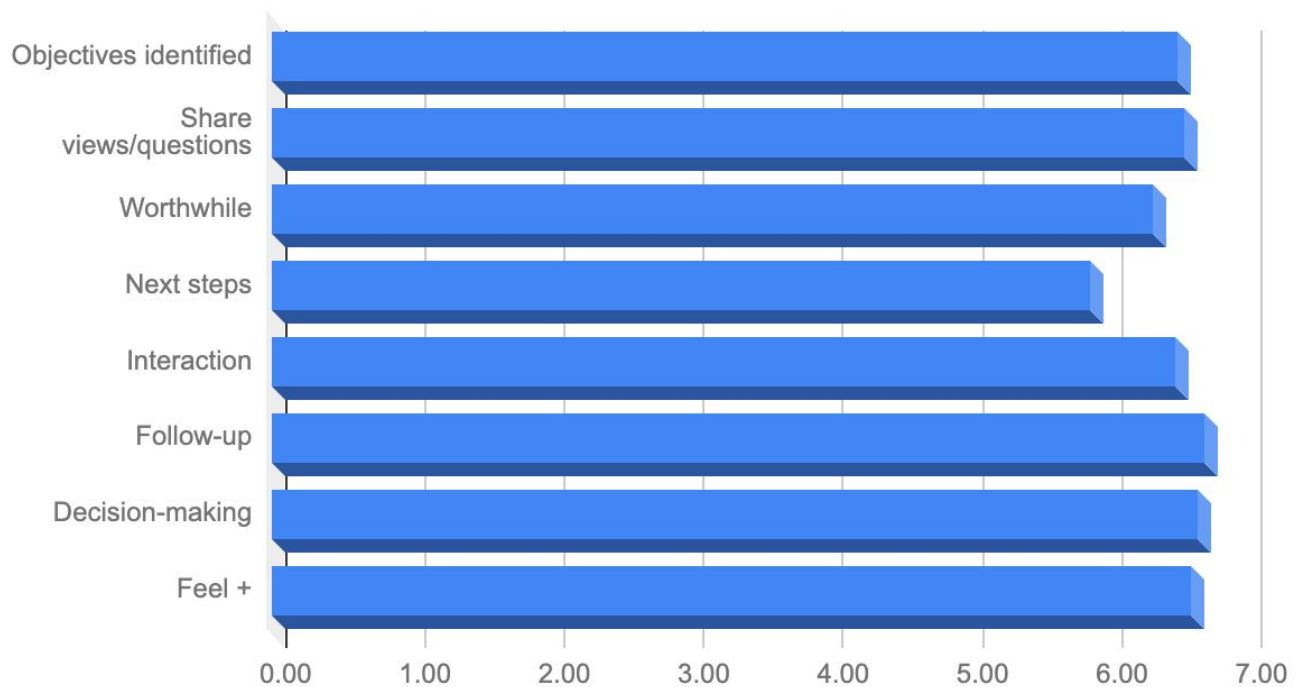
- **Family Co-Op**
 - Morris Koppelman: enrollment at eight families
 - Gregory Jackson: started with three families and now has nine families
- **Books for Brownsville**
 - A second cohort will be trained Thursday, 11/7 and Friday, 11/8, 9am - 4pm at the Greg Jackson Center). **Those interested in participating should contact info@unitedforbrownsville.org ASAP.**

Process Improvements: Early Intervention (EI)

- Previously UB introduced 5 project concepts to improve the EI system in Brownsville, as part of an effort to achieve early intervention equity compared to NYC EI rates.
 - Three projects have been prioritized (Family Ambassadors, Referral Follow-ups, Screening protocols)
 - Participants split into one of the three project breakout groups and answered the following questions
 - What further information is needed for UB to pursue this project? What more do we need to know about the problem?
 - What are the appropriate outcomes and process measures? In other words, how will we know when it is time to pop the champagne to celebrate each project?
 - What are the appropriate timelines for planning, implementing, measuring outcomes, and anticipating results from this project?
 - Who should be involved in the planning, hiring, or implementation of this project that may not be involved yet? Have you reached out to invite anyone in yet?
 - Responses for Family Ambassador project [here](#), Screening Protocols project [here](#) and Referral Follow Up [here](#)

Reality Check Survey Results

PAT Reality Check Average Answers



allowed ambassador breakout clarity
collaborating colleagues community concerns contribute convo create
discussing ei email evaluator everyone family figuring
groups hearing improve inclusive interesting intros issues job lead listening
longer meaningful members na names opportunity perspectives pitfalls platform possible progress
qualities questions share simple spend support talking team think thoughts topics