

FAB Meeting #36 04/09/2021

Attendance:

- 7 UB Backbone Staff (David Harrington, Kassa Belay, Athenia Rodney, Aileen Gonzalez, Briona Clark, Ruth Horry)
- 11 FAB Members

Objectives:

1. Acknowledge the episode of family violence in Brownsville's Van Dyke houses this week. We will hold additional space after this meeting at 3 to discuss and reflect.
2. Further explore new system improvement project topics
3. UB news and updates

Takeaways:

In our April meeting, we revisited ideas for a new systems improvement project after doing more research and updated the FAB on Dionne's expanding role in FAB support systems, our upcoming third installment of the food delivery program, and received updates on the work of the Early Intervention Ambassador and the FAB Fellow.

Opener:

- The Backbone shared a statement regarding the recent tragic episode of family violence in Brownsville with the FAB and held space for FAB reactions and input.
 - The FAB feels it is important for us to make a statement
 - Related to our mission as getting involved in the 0-3 age range could help be preventative for later issues

- Has furthered descrimination and criminalization of people living in the building and the neighborhood
- Improper response in the form of increased policing resembling protection for gang related violence
- No proper support for the trauma
- Shows that resources are not reaching community members most in need
- Feels extremely painful and close to home for some
- Our goal will be to support organizations already working on this issue in Brownsville

Systems Improvement Project Discussion

- Ideas Generated at March Meeting
 - Black child mental health
 - Infant/toddler extracurricular activities
 - Early childhood educational enrollment
 - Elevated child blood lead levels
 - Patient centered care in Brownsville (Community Cares)
 - NYCHA unit repairs
 - Child health system navigation
 - Extended/after-hours child care
- Breakout: Topic research round robins
 - The Backbone team researched these 8 topics and will provide this research to the FAB in groups four at a time
 - The FAB was split into four breakout groups and a backbone team member visited each group discussing one of the first four topics at a time (20 minutes per topic)
 - FAB members read through each topic and Backbone members will listen, take notes, and provide clarity
 - We will repeat this process for the second 4 topics at next month's meeting
- Breakout discussion prompts
 - Your personal response to/ feeling about this inequity

- Do you have a personal story related to this topic?
 - What potential solutions occur to you?
 - Helps us decide whether the solution is well suited to UB or better for another organization
 - Tells us that these issues are in fact solvable
 - Does this inequity seem like a project UB could successfully take on?
 - Consider data and existing relationships
- A summary of the breakout group discussions is linked below
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/145RDjDqP1OzsTuF9zyuMmsHv9eOnvl6NWu6o4W0Bt5s/edit>
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News and Updates

- Last month's FAB and PAT: March 2021
 - FAB
 - Generated ideas and priorities for future FAB projects to fix systemic early childhood inequities in Brownsville
 - Small business grant went live!
 - Quality Improvement training - two sessions hosted to date
 - April's PAT meeting was postponed due to the Easter holiday weekend
- FAB Professional Development & Upcoming Project
 - Continuous Quality Improvement Module III: Project Charters & Small Tests of Change
 - 4/15 from 3:30-4:30 pm with Lindsay Martin
 - Dionne of the Backbone will focus on professional development and leadership via healing circles and topic-specific workshops
 - Upcoming Project: Food Distribution Part 3
 - Third iteration of our food distribution, this time partnering with Corbin Hill
 - 50 bags of food will be delivered to Brownsville families each week for 12 weeks starting 4/19
 - We will also be including supplies for 0-3 children

- Learning Landscapes Activity Cards
 - Danielle provided an update on the merging of Learning Landscapes and Books for Brownsville into an at home or on-the-go card activity, paired with MarliBoxes
 - Learning Landscape cards have been finalized and are in the process of being printed
 - Cards will be distributed in late April/early May (the same time as the Family Co-op book distribution)
 - Families will be invited to join a focus group in June 2021
- EI Ambassador and Ruth Updates
 - Aileen hosted a community wide “EI Resource Table Talk” on April 6th. Events like this will be conducted monthly.
 - Every Wednesday at noon, Aileen hosts “Lunch and Learn” presentations via ZOOM for all families
 - Ongoing recruitment is still happening through sharing fliers, books, and resources in the community on Thursdays and Fridays. FAB members are welcome to contact Aileen to participate.
 - The NYC DOE Division of Early Childhood Education is developing a “Commitment to Families” document to serve as a Parent Bill of Rights for early childhood families and would like families in the neighborhood to contribute. FAB members can reach out to Ruth for more information.
 - Link to the NYC DOE DECE Family Resources Summary
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hzR7Z2ZXg7hKxphh_NetiFgMNcLzw6sxAb-bZTbo_ik/edit
 - The Brooklyn Children Museum is creating an advisory council and would like to invite FAB members to join. There will be 4 sessions throughout the year with a stipend of \$100 per session and transport to and from the museum covered. Applications are due 4/19, in person meetings will be on Sundays starting in May.

Next Steps

- Learning Landscapes kit distribution

- Backbone team will share research on the next four project ideas to discuss in depth at the next meeting

Post-Meeting Conversation Summary

- UB responses to the incident
 - UB should encourage organizations working on child mental health to apply to our grant
 - Backbone effort to update the Family Wellbeing Checklist tool with vetted, culturally competent providers led by Ruth
 - Thursday Healing circles from 5-7pm
- Responses to the tragedy
 - Safe Horizons should have been brought in to help the child on the night of the tragedy
 - Bashirah commented that religious leaders could have been brought in to help aid people traumatized by the event spiritually
 - There was an improper response both on the night of for the survivor and afterwards in the form of increased policing for building residents
 - Mental health programs, a possible prevention effort for tragedies such as this one, require a two part roll out of both education on mental wellbeing and the intentional placement of mental health providers that fit the community
 - OwnBrownsville.com is moving to provide that resource
 - Some feel that the organizations in the community, such as ACL, Jewish Board, etc. do not seem to be helping with their services
 - Bashirah had the idea that UB help to provide/advocate for funding to train faith leaders in trauma based counseling if funding is a barrier for them
 - Maria had the idea to open up healing circles to all of Brownsville. This could be made possible if Dionne trained the group on how to hold circles and expand the reach
 - Community events that help people foster community and relieve stress such as bingo, raffles, etc.

ailen **backbone** books breakout **brownsville** cards care
child childhood circles com **community** discuss
distribution document **early** events **fab families** feels food
group health **help** hosted ideas improvement landscapes
learning **meeting** **members** mental organizations
personal **project** **provide** reach research resources
response ruth share summary system team **topic** train **ub** updates week