

PAT Meeting #43 05/06/2022

Attendance:

- UB Backbone Staff (, David Harrington, Athenia Rodney, Danny Herring, Ruth Horry, Briona Clark)
- 31 Total
- PAT Members
- FAB members

Meeting Objectives:

- Introduce UB daycare pilot with Wiggle Room
- Further discussion and understanding of preschool special education data

Takeaways

May's meeting was spent discussing the CPSE system and newly acquired data, including how the transition from EI at age three functions and places where it could potentially be improved.

Opener

Let's get adventurous! What is one thing on your bucket list?

- Go to a place with 24 hour sun
- Leave generational wealth for my grandchildren
- Walk on the floor of the ocean
- Become successful with stock trading
- Visit Japan
- Fly first class on Emirates
- Ride in a hot air balloon
- Visit Madeira

- Couples retreat in Maldives
- Meet Serena Williams
- See a blue whale

UB Mission Statement

Audrey read the UB mission statement.

United for Brownsville is a family-led collaboration transforming the early childhood systems in Brownsville, Brooklyn, so that all young children are able to flourish. Our work starts with families' hopes for their children and their ideas for eradicating systemic inequities in early childhood services. This approach disrupts harmful power dynamics and beliefs rooted in anti-Black racism that prevent Black and Latinx children from lifting off.

News and Updates

Previously at UB..

- April PAT
 - Discussed childcare challenges in Brownsville and reviewed CPSE data
- April FAB
 - Discussed ways to work together more transparently and established monthly FAB-only and Backboard (FAB+Backbone) meetings
- Brownville EI Equity Workgroup agreed to focus on obtaining family consent

Events and Applied Projects

Events

- Virtual Parent Co-op on May 17th from 7pm - 9pm
- Brooklyn Book Bodega on May 21st from 3:30pm - 5:30pm

Applied Projects

- WNET/PBS
 - This will include 4 workshops in the community on topics below
 - Water and Marine Biology
 - Ramps/Engineers
 - Self Confidence
 - Responsibility
- Learning Landscapes in Market
 - The original plan was interrupted by Covid but the second iteration will relaunch in late June at Food Bazaar
 - Francine Culter from BMS is having an event on MAY 21st 10-3pm

Updates

- FAB Restructuring has included...
 - FAB Only Meetings give FAB a change to commune without the Backbone presence or influence
 - FAB participation in stakeholder planning meetings
 - Adjusting surveys and polling protocol
- Wiggle Room & UB
 - Ruth walked us through her effort with Danny to assist families going through the EI process through their daycare matching system.
 - Came out of the FAB 2022 priority to improve access to child-appropriate, high quality daycare options
 - This pilot will help combat
 - Affordable daycare that meets' Families needs
 - Lack of information about supply and demand as well as how to find care
 - Wiggle Room's Care Finder x Brownsville
 - <https://www.wiggleroomnow.com/brownsville>
 - Uses tech to enhance the experience of finding childcare in the Brownsville area
 - Jamie-Jin Lewis, the CEO and founder of Wiggle Room, presented on the new, free childcare finder they have built
 - Pilot to connect Family Child Care programs with people seeking care in Brownsville
 - Carefinder.nyc resulted from focus groups, advocates, and community partners' will to simplify the process of finding the right childcare, which helps both providers and parents

- To use the site, parents can enter an address, location, or subway stop and see programs in the area. Local providers are being recruited to add specialized informations like voucher status, hours, and availability.
- Parents or guardians can send inquiries directly to a program or be added to their waitlist
- Providers are listed without submitting but can claim their program to add more detailed information about Hours, Languages, Rates, Openings, Availability, etc.
- Q&A
 - Q: Francesca asked if UB will be able to vet each daycare and approve them with a UB seal of approval on the website.
A: Jamie-Jin is open to it and wants to make sure that they can be administered in an equitable way.
 - Q: Are program reviews available?
A: Reviews are not currently available as they haven't yet gotten the capacity to add this large feature. Each provider does have licensing information that allows parents to access more information about the childcare space's standard
 - Q: Stephanie asks about a feature that tells parents whether they can apply for vouchers through the program or not
A: Voucher information is able to be input by programs who claim their daycare
- Ways to get involved
 - Share carefinder with your network
 - Use carefinder and tell us how it went
 - Virtual Meet and greet Tuesday May 10 at 7pm
 - Email Jamie-Jin Lewis at jaimejin@wiggleroomnow.com

Preschool Special Education Data

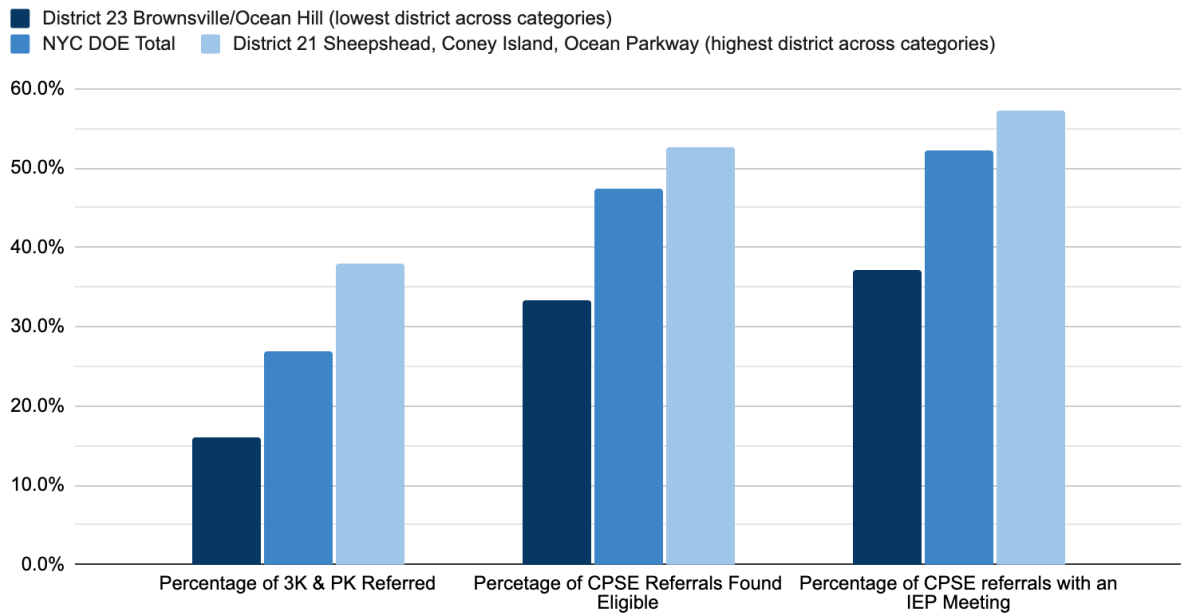
After aging out of Early Intervention around age 3, children requiring special education are under the supervision of the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE), which includes the following players.

- DOE Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE)
 - EI-CPSE transition team
 - Direct hiring of preschool special education service providers for high demand needs and districts

- UB has been in contact with this division
- DOE Special Education Office (SEO)
 - Brownsville is DOE District 23 of 32
 - Handles CPSE, which has 10 districts composed of 3-4 DOE Districts each
 - Brownsville is CPSE District 5, each of which has a
 - Chairperson
 - Community coordinator
 - Special Education Evaluation Program Placement Officer (SEEPPO)
 - Supervisor of psychologists
 - UB has been connected to the Chairperson of Brownsville's CPSE District with hope to present some of the issues we have identified
- CPSE Enrollment process
 - 1) Request referral
 - a) Should happen ASAP during pre-school or 3-K
 - b) Enrollment in school not required
 - 2) CPSE responds
 - a) Should be within 2 weeks
 - b) Family receives information, forms, and a list of evaluation agencies for parents to choose from and contact them to schedule evaluation
 - c) Consent must be given by natural parent or education surrogate before evaluation takes place
 - d) In a school setting, this is coordinated by a social worker
 - e) Children in EI can be referred by their On-going Service Coordinator by age 2.9
 - 3) Evaluation conducted
 - 4) IEP Meeting
 - a) Report should be sent out for review at meeting
 - b) Determine services needed by the child
 - 5) Services arranged
 - a) Should take place within 60 days of referral if a child is found eligible
- CPSE Data

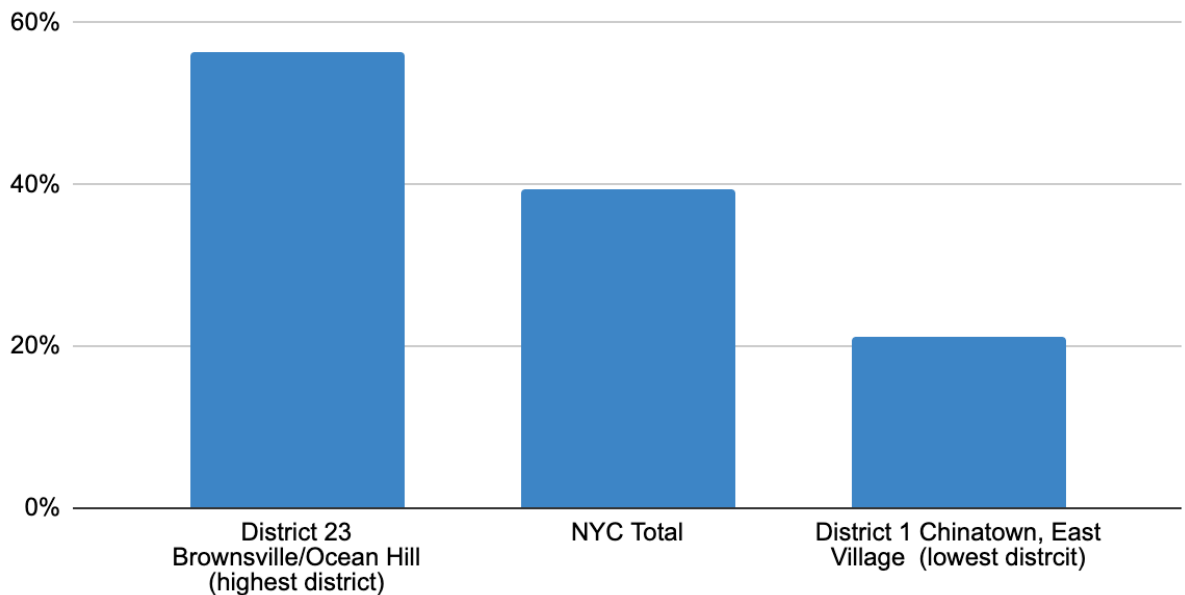
- David reviewed a 2019/2020 chart comparing DECE data of referrals processed, referrals found eligible, and referrals ending with an IEP Meeting in District 23 in District 23 (Brownsville/Ocean Hill), the city average, and District 21 (Sheepshead Bay)

2019-20 CPSE referrals in District 23 Brownsville/Ocean Hill compared to the highest performing district and the entire NYC DOE system



- - District 23 happens to be a district that aligns well with neighborhood borders, whereas District 21 has more diversity of race, wealth, and other demographics
- The following chart compared the percentage of open cases awaiting services in June 2020

CPSE open cases awaiting services in June 2020 (2019-2020 school year)



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- CPSE Experiences

- David shared his experience with CPSE enrollment with his own child. Even as a well-resourced parent who works in early childhood and with a DOE teacher as a partner, he still had much difficulty, pointing to systemic issues rather than parent fault as summarized below
 - David and his spouse noticed things that made them concerned after entering their child into preschool and requested a referral in December 2020
 - CPSE did not respond until 6 weeks after the referral
 - He received a long, overwhelming list of agencies
 - His school recommended an agency and then it took a month to schedule and conduct evaluation
 - Remote evaluations were difficult as tools and visuals used were not discernable on a computer screen
 - Schedule delays
 - Recommended occupational therapy, but services were not available
 - CPSE did not transmit paperwork correctly

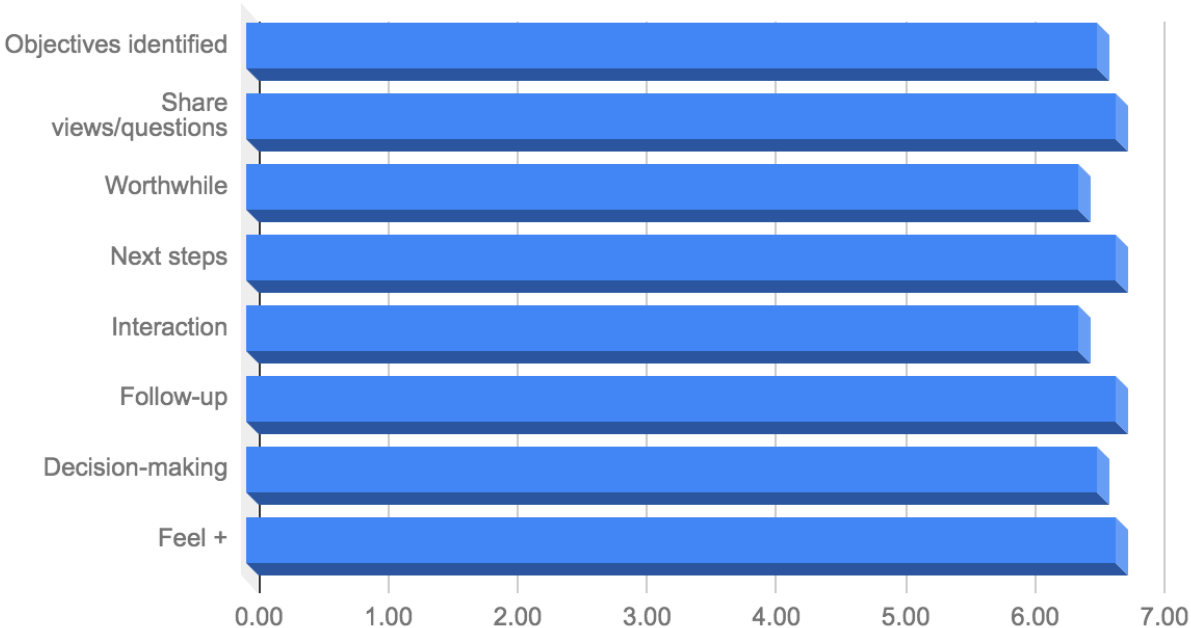
- The only available spot required additional work, string pulling, and connections from David and his wife
- He learned that different coordinators vary greatly in their performance
- Group Observations
 - It becomes clear how children can fail to receive services by falling through the cracks and causing parents to give up
 - Families do not know their rights and cannot advocate to hold people accountable for not doing their jobs i.e. through an Impartial Hearings
 - Unlike EI, there isn't a service coordinator for CPSE
 - Parents must expect a system failure and then demand what is needed at every step in order to get services
 - According to Robin, enrolling children in preschool can help increase access to services because teacher's opinions weigh heavily
 - This could have impact showing that EC programs are less well staffed, stable, and resourced in certain neighborhoods
 - CPSE prefers that children go through the DOE, creating less access for services for children not enrolled in a DOE program

Next Steps

- UB continuing conversations with DOE staff, getting introduced to CSE 5 Supervisor
- Ruth will begin structured outreach and asks the PAT to share daycare providers she should have on her list to help with the process of outreach

Reality Check

PAT Reality Check Average Answers



Word Cloud

