

## **PAT Meeting #46 09/16/2022**

### **Attendance:**

- 5 UB Backbone Staff (David Harrington, Ruth Horry, Athenia Rodney, Danny Herring, Briona Clark, Ashanti Walker)
- 17 People in-person
- 12 FAB members

### **UB Mission Statement**

Jamar 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.*

### **Opener**

Q: In what sector is your career?

A: Healthcare, Childcare, Community Activism, and more

Q: What was your favorite school lunch?

A: Pizza Friday,

Q: Nature, nurture, or both?

A: Mostly both, some nurture.

### **Meeting Objectives:**

Provide feedback from Brownsville residents to Robinhood on their childcare improvement priorities and clarify the roles UB is well positioned to play therein.

## **Takeaways**

Discuss

## **News and Updates**

### Since we last met..

- August FAB Meeting: UB defined quality childcare and voted on Mica Rencher for the position of Deputy Director for systems change
- August PAT Meeting discussed experiences and raised questions about the new mayoral blueprint for childcare
- Numerous back to school events, WNET workshops, and parent corner meetings
- WNET
  - Maria explained the WNET workshops and events social emotional development workshops. WNET has introduced UB to the community, taught facilitation to FAB members, and brought joy to children through learning activities
- UB Workflow Organization
  - UB's effort to build an infrastructure focused on racial equity is split into Applied Interventions and Systems Change
  - Mica Rencher will spearhead systems change work such as pediatric healthcare access and CPSE
  - Athenia will continue to lead applied intervention projects like the EI parent connection and Learning Landscapes
  - Danny explained the reasoning behind her partnering with Ruth to create the Parent Connection. Their programming delivers support, information, and community along with childcare. Their first cohort will graduate on September 22nd.
  - Audrey gave a recap of their Parent Corner program. Parent corner allows parents to have community and an outlet to express themselves without judgment. They also use their WhatsApp group to share resources families can rely on.

## Robinhood and Childcare

Their mission is to elevate people living in poverty out of poverty. They look to learn from the community driven efforts of UB, particularly in childcare.

Robinhood recently launched a partnership with the city to make childcare more accessible, affordable, and higher quality and looks to be advised by UB based on the knowledge the organization has accrued through this work.

### Recent UB Work on Childcare Access

- Over the course of 2022, UB has been looking for an entry point.
- Through bringing Ruth on full time, connecting with Jamie-Jin Lewis and the introduction of the Blueprint from the Mayor.
- Needs identified for childcare from 0-3 year olds include
  - Funded or subsidized care
  - Nontraditional hours
  - Settings and programming that can accommodate special needs
  - Meet quality and cultural compatibility requirements
- There is a set of missing information and data that David has identified
- Ruth explained her process in creating the Daycare Matching service
  - Late Spring 2022
    - Started trying to help EI and FAB
    - Connected with Jamie-Jin Lewis of Wiggle Room and learned about Carefinder
  - Early Summer
    - Worked with Carefinder/Wiggle Room to recruit more providers to claim their profiles in an easy, free way
    - Door-to-door canvassing with free tools and resources for daycare students
  - Late Summer
    - Hosted a webinar for providers with
    - Hosted an in-person daycare matchmaking event, making the luxury of choice available to low-income families in Brownsville
  - Fall
    - Creating a provider newsletter
    - Webinar is planned for next month
    - The next daycare matching event is planned for winter

The group discussed . Untraditional hours are only provided by home daycares, highlighting their importance. However, centers often do not provide the same level of intimate care and connection. Despite this, they are under resourced and underappreciated.

Ruth also brings up child care bartering and sharing of communal resources as a method of maneuvering the system, but this is only an option for those with connections.

Jeremiah provides a subsidy to participants for backup childcare using an app called Helper that can pay anyone to provide the care

FAB and PAT feedback to the Mayor's Daycare Blueprint

### Vouchers

- New application is cumbersome
- Unclear
- Nobody at phone numbers had additional information. Only instruction is that applications should be submitted asap and

### Communications

- Neighborhood communications strategies
- Help hotline not informed about next steps for families or providers
- Providers unclear about next steps and how they will be impacted

### Learning

- There are opportunities to increase access to childcare through matching making
- With absence of clarity about the blueprint, there is opportunity for UB to disseminate the most up to date information locally to increase access
- Trustbuilding and high quality information
- Preventative agencies may be an effective side door into attaining a voucher
- David notes that the most important piece of changing systems is building trust.
- Danny explains how experiences create the negative stigma surrounding agencies like ACS and SCO in communities.
- Supply and demand ; wiggle room can help us understand how many opens spots exist in brownsville
- Jeremiah provides a subsidy to participants for backup childcare using an app called Helper that can pay anyone to provide the care
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Questions, advice, and reactions

- How can we best quantify the childcare gap in the neighborhood on both provider and family side
- What are the best paths to staying up-to-date with the most accurate information on city childcare policies so we can communicate clearly with local stakeholders

### Discussion

- Athenia: It should be a similar system to the Adult Senior Care voucher where you can pay a living wage to a family member if they stay home and take care of our child.
- I have heard it has been challenging with higher education too. The classes that are being offered also should be offered at times that providers can take them. We just went through a season of doing everything remote. How can we make classes more accessible to support the providers so they do not have to take away from working with their families.

### Robinhood Potential Focus Areas

## POTENTIAL FOCUS AREAS – WORK IN PROGRESS FOR DISCUSSION

<p><b>1 Deepen impact of early educators and childcare staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide evidence-based <b>professional development support</b></li> <li>• Build a pipeline and improving <b>retention of childcare workers</b> to meet need</li> <li>• Create <b>career ladders</b> that link credentialing to wage increases (e.g., expansion of CUNY CDA certification, Bank Street certification program; may include longitudinal research, piloting, advocacy)</li> <li>• Test <b>effect of pay increases and incentives</b> to reduce turnover, improve continuity of care, and improve quality of care</li> <li>• Reduce <b>back-office challenges</b> so providers can focus on children</li> <li>• Cultivate greater <b>quality in legally-exempt services</b></li> <li>• Research/pilot/advocacy re: impact of teacher coaches and mental health consultants on childcare quality</li> </ul>	<p><b>2 Expand childcare options to support parents' education and work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase <b>degree attainment</b> by improving childcare support for student-parents in partnership with the Department of Education and CUNY</li> <li>• Provide <b>childcare for job training</b> program candidates</li> <li>• Pilot <b>childcare options</b> for New Yorkers who work non-traditional hours</li> <li>• Reduce <b>childcare deserts</b> in high poverty communities</li> <li>• Pilot universal afterschool program</li> <li>• Pilot non-traditional hours care and informal care</li> <li>• Research and/or pilot international childcare models</li> </ul>	<p><b>3 Strengthen providers' engagement with parents and other caregivers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand <b>family engagement programs</b> to share information about healthy child development</li> <li>• Provide <b>socioemotional support</b> for loss or displacement during pandemic to children and caregivers</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 Improve access to subsidized care for eligible families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build an online portal to <b>streamline the application process</b> for childcare</li> <li>• <b>Integrate childcare eligibility</b> with other benefits access processes</li> <li>• Increase <b>outreach and enrollment efforts</b> for families in shelter and temporary housing</li> <li>• Research whether access to non-traditional hours and/or informal care increases uptake rate of subsidies</li> <li>• Research to understand low uptake rates (e.g., parent/provider focus groups, discussions with ACS and OCFS)</li> </ul>	<p><b>5 Coordinate policy and advocacy efforts to sustain and expand investments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate the <b>minimum wage requirements</b> for working families to qualify for childcare subsidies</li> <li>• Delink <b>hours of care</b> from work or school</li> <li>• Support <b>living wage</b> for childcare workers</li> <li>• <b>Delay automatic rate</b> increases</li> <li>• Support for <b>undocumented families</b></li> <li>• <b>Improve provider contracting</b> – payment timeliness, etc.</li> <li>• Develop 'universal' quality definitions and metrics for NYS/ NYC (incl. pilots, advocacy, and expansion of QRIS)</li> </ul>
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Robinhood and UB are excited to continue working together

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**Reality Check**  
**Word Cloud**

access asks brooklyn brownsville capacity child  
children collaboration connect continue conversation  
cpse danny data david daycare  
discussion early ei email evaluator fab failure  
families group home ideas improve job maggie major  
meeting members notes offering parent pat  
people points possible providers rates referral ruth services  
systems ub visit well-childwork