

July 2020 Newsletter

Greetings from CPC Manhattan Community Services (MCS)!

As New York City enters Phase Four of reopening, Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) remains committed to the health and safety of our staff and community members. We have operated on a modified schedule since March, and will continue to do so through the summer. CPC Manhattan Community Center is temporarily closed, but our commitment to the community members remains the same. We continue to serve and support our members through telecommunication, video conferencing, remote training, share resources and up-to-date information.

• CPC is proud to announce Ms. Sumon Chin, CPC's Deputy Director of Manhattan Community Services and Director of Early Childhood Learning & Wellness Services (ECLW), has been appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Directors at the Early Care and Learning Council (ECLC), a statewide, not-for-profit membership organization that represents the 35 Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) programs across New York State. ECLC works closely with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to support and strengthen the capacity of CCR&R agencies by providing direct assistance and support to parents, child care providers, and employers in their communities to improve the quality of early care and education in New York State.

Ms. Sumon Chin, LMSW, MHA, is a dedicated, passionate, and accomplished early child care educator and advisor. At CPC, Ms. Chin guides her team to provide and improve the quality and access of New York City's child care services through culturally competent, multilingual supports for both families and child care providers. CPC ECLW has received recognition from family child care providers and early childhood educators, and is one of the few agencies that achieved the highly acclaimed "Quality Assurance from Child Care Award of America".

Congratulations to Ms. Sumon Chin on this important leadership role!



With the purpose of keeping families intact and preventing placement of children into foster care system, Asian Family Services (AFS) provides multiple levels of services to address Asian families and children's needs by supportive counseling, parenting skills training, and crisis intervention.
 AFS staff follow up on cases from the Administration for Children's Services through teleconference to ensure parents and children are not socially isolated or living in fear, and their needs and issues are addressed.



• As the City Council passed right before the July 1st budget deadline, a partial funding for the restoration of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), Mayor de Blasio announced SYEP Summer Bridge 2020, a modified version of the City's traditional SYEP. It is a new innovative model that was developed to meet the needs of New York City youth as the City recovers from the impact of COVID-19 this summer. Through this program, Community Health Services (CHS) is able to provide constructive engagement and enrichment activities to keep CPC youth active and productive this summer. It also gives youth a unique opportunity to explore their interests, their career paths, build their skills and prepare them for their next steps in the fall. With the average of 120 CPC youth in attendance per workshop, CHS Peer Educators, through Zoom, have delivered workshops such as: Mental Health and Stress, Healthy Relationships, and HIV 101 & Safe Sex. In each workshop, participants were engaged in discussions, agree or disagree, fact or myth, and an exit ticket at the end of the workshop, a short questionnaire for the participants to review what they have learned.



Early Childhood Learning & Wellness Services (ECLW) working in partnership with the New York
City Department of Education (DOE) launched three Family Child Care (FCC) Networks: CPC
Brooklyn FCC Network, CPC Manhattan FCC Network, and CPC Queens FCC Network. ECLW has
secured \$11 million annually, a total of \$55 million over a five-year period from DOE to provide
economic security and workforce development for family child care programs. Family child care

providers interested in affiliating with CPC FCC Networks were invited to attend Network Orientation Sessions held on July 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, in Chinese, English, and Spanish respectively. During the orientation, attendees were introduced to CPC FCC Network services, Network requirements and enrollment procedures, the requirements and expectations of affiliated network providers, and a Q & A session to answer any questions. ECLW Network Team had conducted over 135 provider selection interviews and sent results to DOE for evaluation. The team will then follow up with the approved providers to collect documentations and enrollment survey. The affiliated providers will be officially with CPC FCC Networks on September 1st, 2020.



On Saturday July 25th, 40 licensed family child care providers completed ECLW first ever virtual 30-hour cohort training in Chinese. The first Chinese training session took place on June 20th and ran for 5 Saturdays. The training courses are designed to help fulfill the requirements for provider's license renewal and the training series is funded through a Professional Development Grant from the United Federation of Teachers (UFT). At the last training session, ECLW staff went over the guidelines and requirements from the Department of Health with the providers for reopening child care programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, ECLW also launched the virtual 30-hour cohort training in Spanish which began on July 11th with 38 licensed family child care providers in attendance.



• The Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultation is a new initiative of the Infant Toddler Mental Health Project of ECLW, with the purpose of working with providers and caregivers to increase awareness of mental health in infants and toddlers. The Infant Toddler Mental Health (ITMH) Consultants utilize evidence-driven, collaborative, and culturally responsive approach to promote the healthy growth in young children's social and emotional development by building the confidence, competencies, and skills of the caregivers, and those of early care and education staff, and systems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the structure and livelihood of our caregivers, providers, and infants and toddlers. The pandemic has also increased risk of mental health illnesses due to the impact that the virus has on society. The ITMH Consultants are needed more than ever to help combat the risks of mental health issues, address social-emotional development, and support

infants and toddlers, caregivers, and providers during this new and unfamiliar time. Virtual and telephone assistance are available for caregivers and providers who care for infants and toddlers and need support and resources.



• Governor Cuomo announced \$65 million in federal CARES Act funding to be available through the New York Forward Child Care Expansion Incentive program. This is to help child care programs that were closed due to COVID-19 to return to operation to serve families returning to the workplace. \$20 million is allotted to assist child care programs with reopening and restructuring by providing materials to support social distancing model, and for supplies and activities associated with reopening and restructuring to keep staff and children safe. \$45 million is allotted to Child Care Reopening and Expansion Incentive funds to pay for 50% of the cost of a newly opened classroom/space, with maximum grant amount of \$6,000 as an incentive to reopen classrooms/utilize space. ECLW staff reached out to over 8300 child care providers and programs to inform them about the grant, sent instructions, budget template, grant opportunity document and assisted over the phone to help child care providers to complete their application.



- Multi-Social Services (MSS) staff continue to work tirelessly during and after the normal business hours to assist community members on housing, immigration matters, counseling on Medical assistance, apply for SNAP online, and answer questions regarding Census 2020 and cash assistance programs.
- Grants from the Robin Hood Foundation's Covid-19 Cash Assistance Program and from the New York Immigration Coalition's NY United Emergency Cash Assistance Program were distributed in July to many families who were impacted by the pandemic. Hundreds of families lost income during the pandemic and found themselves suffering were able to find some relieve through these grants. MSS was able to screen many eligible families and in July distributed these grants much needed assistance to these families.



About CPC

Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) is the nation's largest Asian American social services organization. Founded in 1965, CPC promotes the social and economic empowerment of Chinese American, immigrant, and low-income communities of New York City.

For more information and updates, please visit www.cpc-nyc.org