



Early Childhood Education Committee

Presentation to School Committee
June 6, 2016

+ Exploring Early Childhood Education Committee (ECEC)

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EARLY CHILDHOOD FACTS

<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/project-for-babies/>

From Harvard's Center on the Developing Child:

- In the first few years of life 700 to 1,000 neural connections are formed every second in a child's brain.
- Early experiences determine whether a child's developing brain architecture provides a strong or weak foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health. Key= stable, caring, responsive relationships with adults.
- Emotional well-being and social competence provide a strong foundation for emerging cognitive abilities, and together they are the bricks and mortar of brain architecture. Key=safe & supportive environments
- The scientific evidence is clear: significant mental health problems can and do occur in young children. Neuroscience principles indicate that it is easier and less costly to form strong brain circuits during the early years than it is to intervene or "fix" them later
- Effective early childhood policies are needed to strengthen families, educate mothers and fathers, and provide professional assistance for those young children and their parents who need help.

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BACKGROUND

- In the Summer of 2014, the School Committee sponsored a Summit to explore specific requests of the Wayland community, one of which was in Early Childhood Education.
- The participants of the Summit considered the Wayland Public Schools funded resources available to early childhood families in the areas of parent education, guidance support and clinical services for social/emotional challenges.
- It was determined that there are limited guidance/clinical resources available to Wayland preschool families.

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COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS

- Katy Merrell – Director, The Children’s Way (Co-Chair)
- Gretchen Lutz – Early Childhood Coordinator (Co-Chair)
- Brian Jones – Principal, Loker School
- Pat Keefe – Director, Wayland School Community Programs
- Lynn Dowd – Director, Wayland Youth and Family Services
- Beverly Mobilia – Coordinator, Community Partnerships for Children and Families
- Mary Bennett – Lead Teacher, The Children’s Way
- Sanj Purewal – Admissions and Primary Guide, Wayland Montessori School
- Suzanne Thornfeldt – Parent, The Children’s Way
- Joshua Hyman – Parent, The Children’s Way
- Barb Fletcher – Member, Wayland School Committee

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ECEC CHARGE

- To investigate the value and cost of providing early childhood guidance support, parenting resources and/or clinical services to the Wayland preschool community, including school programs and families.

- The Committee's purpose was to think broadly and openly about support possibilities, including:
 - Determine the resources available in the Wayland area
 - Determine what additional resources are needed

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ECEC's WORK

- The Committee discussed the need for guidance support, parenting resources and clinical services, which included:
 - Rise in numbers of children with intense emotional and/or behavioral challenges, and children with increased anxiety
 - Stress in families
 - Parenting skills and experience
 - Lack of parent-to -parent networking
 - Limited access to child developmental knowledge

- The Committee then researched the resources that are currently available to Wayland families in the areas of early childhood guidance, parental support and clinical services

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ECEC'S WORK *(continued)*

- **Wayland Resources**
 - Wayland Children and Parents' Association (WCPA)
<http://www.waylandwcpa.org>
 - Wayland Youth and Family Services
http://www.wayland.ma.us/Pages/WaylandMA_Youth/index
 - The Parent Organization at The Children's Way (TPO)
http://tcw.wayland.k12.ma.us/for_families/t_c_w_parent_organization
 - Mom to Mom at the Trinitarian Church
<http://www.momtomomwayland.org>
 - Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)
http://www.wayland.k12.ma.us/administration/student_services/s_e_p_a_c
 - Wayland Dads
<http://www.waylanddads.org>
 - Wayland Community Partnerships for Children and Families
 - Other Early Childhood Providers
- **Human Relations Services (HRS)** - <http://www.humanrelationservice.org>
- **Enable, Inc.** - <http://www.enableinc.org>
- **Criterion Early Intervention** - <http://www.criterionchild.com/index.php/programs/early-intervention>
- **Pediatricians**

For more information, refer to pages 16-18 of the Appendix

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ECEC'S WORK *(continued)*

- **Based on this information, the Committee**
 - Developed a list of recommendations for new resources and
 - Estimated the funding level required for each recommendation

For the complete list of recommendations, refer to pages 19-20 of Appendix

- In particular, the Committee helped Beverly Mobilia, the Coordinator of the Community Partnerships for Children & Families, update the Wayland Family Resource Guide

To access this Resource Guide, click on this link: [add link to Resource Guide when available]

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ECEC'S WORK *(continued)*

■ **The Committee then raised 4 questions:**

1. How could we make the information accessible to families?
2. How could we promote face-to-face resource access?
3. What could be started easily and prioritized?
4. Is there any available funding to support this work?

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ECEC'S WORK *(continued)*

1. How Could We Make This Information Accessible To Families?

- ***Family Resource Guide*** (updated by Community Partnerships for Children and Families - CPCF)
 - Disseminate paper copies via The Children's Way (TCW), community Preschools, Elementary PTO's, SEPAC and Town Library
 - Disseminate electronically via TCW, community Preschools, and Wayland Children and Parents Association (WCPA)
 - Potentially post on the Town of Wayland website

2. How Could We Promote Face-to Face Resource Access?

- Wayland Youth & Family Services, WCPA and CPCF make brief presentations at Back to School Nights

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ECEC'S WORK *(continued)*

3. What Could Be Started Easily and Prioritized?

■ *Wayland Youth and Family Services (WYFS)*

- Currently, WYFS provides counseling for school-aged children and their families
- Interested in pursuing:
 - Increased collaboration with TCW & community Preschools
 - Piloting a parent support group

■ *Wayland Children & Parents Association (WCPA)*

- Currently, WCPA supports over 300 families providing social events, parent workshops, drop-in playgroups, newsletter etc.
- Interested in pursuing:
 - Increased collaboration with TCW and community Preschools
 - Dissemination of the Family Resource Guide via WCPA's website
 - Host parent workshops for a wider audience

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ECEC'S WORK *(continued)*

4. Is There Any Available Funding To Support This Work?

■ *Identified needs include:*

- Part-time school staff member, as a psychologist or guidance counselor, at the preschool level
 - Cost = approximately \$30,000 for 20 hours
 - Value= Provide direct intervention in the educational environment that supports student's emotional health and development and provides consultation, professional development, and support for Wayland Early Childhood Providers

- Part-time clinician through WYFS
 - Cost = approximately \$35,400 for 19 hours
 - Value= Increased capacity to provide therapeutic services for Wayland families with young children, and expanding programming for parent education and support.

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NEXT STEPS

- **Establish a Wayland Early Childhood Advisory Board**
 - To continue the work of the Exploring Early Childhood Education Committee
 - To promote increased collaboration between key providers
 - To initially meet three times per year
 - To focus on the major goals of:
 - ***Connection***
 - ***Prevention***
 - ***Intervention***



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APPENDIX

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EXISTING RESOURCES

NAME OF ENTITY	WCPA	Wayland Youth and Family Services	TPO at TCW	MOM TO MOM Trinitarian Church	Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)	Wayland Dads	Wayland School Lunch Program	Other Community Pre-Schools
Existing Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Enrichment Speakers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School aged guidance support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Childhood Coordinator on site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent groups during day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parental counseling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saturday morning drop-ins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No in-house guidance or parenting support
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Tent Forum 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Enrichment Meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources available through social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speakers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly father/daughter and father/son breakfasts 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directory of Members & Families 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website as a repository of information 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraisers 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Committees 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events just for Dads 		

- ◆ Personal Connection through individual contact or small group sessions – personal advice/counseling
- ◆ Group discussion facilitated by outside specialist – general advice
- ◆ Repository of information and contacts
- ◆ Social/Recreation events
- ◆ Specific assistance

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EXISTING RESOURCES (continued)

NAME OF ENTITY	Human Relations Services (HRS)	Mental Health Consultation Services for Children	Provider Support	Resource & Referral	Community Partnerships for Children & Families	Criterion Early Intervention	Pediatricians	Other Towns
Existing Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See brochure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides professional development support for early childhood educators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists families to get on State's financial assistance waitlist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent workshops in collaboration with other agencies 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellesley's Mother's Forum: provide mothers of young children with support knowledge, socialization and knowledge

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EXISTING RESOURCES (continued)

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Existing Resources					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Resource Guide 			
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assists finding preschools 			
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community based playgroups with Early Intervention 			
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventative Resource is Second Step Curriculum 			
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Cafes 			

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RECOMMENDATIONS

NAME OF ENTITY	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW RESOURCES	FUNDING LEVEL REQUIRED
WCPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOW/MODERATE – Cost of staffing programs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parenting Group taught by Professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOW/MODERATE - Cost of professional
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parenting Workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOW/MODERATE - Cost of facilitator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More Kindergarten info sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOW - Cost of presenter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More infant care options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NONE – Cost covered by tuition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newcomers Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NONE – Led by volunteers
TPO AT TCW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webinar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOW/MODERATE – Cost of teacher
Wayland Youth and Family Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-School parenting group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOW/MODERATE – Cost of professional
Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Connections Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NONE – Led by volunteers????

- ◆ Personal Connection through individual contact or small group sessions – personal advice/counseling
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LOW = LESS THAN \$5,000

MODERATE = \$5,000 - \$25,000

HIGH = Greater than \$25,000

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RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

NAME OF ENTITY	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW RESOURCES	FUNDING LEVEL REQUIRED
Other Community Pre-Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong parenting support person, group or option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOW/MODERATE/HIGH – Depends on nature of support
Other Towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent lending library or handout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOW – Cost of materials
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome packet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOW – Cost of materials
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer Town Beach season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOW/MODERATE – Cost of staffing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet and Great Service for Men and Women (Police & Fire) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NONE – Led by volunteers
ECE Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Committee led by representatives from Wayland Pre-schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NONE – Led by volunteers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Worker for Wayland Pre-schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIGH – Cost of full-time guidance counselor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NONE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross Promotion at Existing Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NONE

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◆ Repository of information and contacts

◆ Social/Recreation events

◆ Specific assistance

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