DEAR FRIENDS

The fundamental goal of the Capital District Child Care Coordinating Council, Inc. is to support children by supporting those who care for and educate them – parents, families, early childhood educators, and before and after school child care providers. Grown from decades of partnership with the community on quality improvement initiatives, the child care market in the Capital Region gives families a wide array of options from which to choose. We have worked hard, along with many others, to ensure that those child care options are of high quality.

We know that the quality of early childhood education and out-of-school time experiences are strongly correlated with the competency of the educator. Last year, the Council provided training and coaching designed to help early childhood teachers, family child care providers, program administrators, and parents to improve their knowledge and skills as a means of supporting better outcomes for children.

The collaborative quality improvement initiatives and family services provided through the Council ensure that the young child’s growth and development is supported through the early years which benefit children, their families, and our schools. Because of our work, families are better able to enter and remain in the workforce and balance the demands of work and life benefiting employers and our economy.

We are proud to present the following report which highlights the Council’s 2015 results and activities. We acknowledge our many individual supporters and local, regional, and state-level public and private sector partners. We thank you for supporting our efforts to ensure that all families can access high quality child care for their children. Most importantly we acknowledge the early childhood education and school-age providers who have partnered with us to improve the quality of experiences for children throughout the community. We thank you for investing in our efforts.

Regards,

Abbe Kovacik, Executive Director
Kim Siciliano, Board President

BOARD MEMBERS
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Nancy Johnson | Board Vice President
Robert Topolski | Board Treasurer
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COMMUNITY HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

At the Council we define community as a group of people who share a common connection whether such as social ties, daily experiences, or geographical location. We are dedicated to working across all communities to reduce and prevent childhood obesity. Childhood obesity affects 1 out of every 6 children in the United States. The Capital Region consistently has a higher rate than the rest of New York State. Being overweight or obese as a child can lead to early onset illness and disease that may be diagnosed later in life. For the first time in history, this generation of children has a shorter life expectancy than their parents.

We are changing that through collaboration! We have partnered with Albany County Department of Health through the Children’s Health Partnership to reinforce movement activity and strengthen childhood obesity prevention policies at participating QUALITYstarsNY certified centers. The Farm to Preschool staff engaged in the Coalition for a Healthy Community to improve food access across the City of Schenectady. Additionally, the Council partnered with the Urban & Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College and the Honest Company to fund Farm to Preschool mini-grants across New York State.

These mini-grants provided nine centers and family child care programs a chance to introduce children and families to growing their own fruits and vegetables, buy local produce, meet farmers, and try new fruits and vegetables in the classroom.

I developed a love for gardening and growing food as a young adult, and wish I had had the opportunity to be exposed as a child. I enjoy sharing this passion with others and truly find enjoyment in working with children in the garden. They are always amazed and excited to see the results of their labor and the pride in their little faces when they are preparing or enjoying something they have grown is priceless.

Melissa, Schoharie County Child Development Council
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

In 2015 a total of 301 child care providers participated in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). With the support from this federal nutrition program, healthy meals and snacks were served to over 6000 children.

This year the Capital District Child Care Council was awarded an expansion grant from the NYS Department of Health. The grant funding helped the Council to reach out to the 262 registered and licensed providers in Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady who don’t currently participate in CACFP. Three providers shared their experiences participating in CACFP in a high quality video which was made with funding from the expansion grant. The video is can be viewed on the Council’s website or on our YouTube channel.
HIGH QUALITY & ACCESSIBLE CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

AGES OF CHILDREN SERVED

- Age not given: 0%
- Under 1: 14%
- One: 11%
- Two: 9%
- Three to four: 16%
- Five: 7%
- Six to eight: 20%
- Nine and older: 23%

5,112 children served in referral calls
3,286

NUMBER OF REQUESTS

- Summer Camp: 2,476
- Group Family Child Care: 1,670
- Family Child Care: 1,946
- Child Care Center: 2,106
- School-Age Program: 552

TYPES OF CARE REQUESTED BY FAMILIES
CREDENTIAL PREPARATORY PROGRAMS

Teaching young children is serious work. Research has shown that 85% of brain development occurs by the time a child is 3 years old. Highly qualified teachers that understand the importance of what they do are critical to children’s future success in school and in life.

The Child Development Associate Preparatory Program (CDA) is a nationally recognized credential based on a core set of competency standards, which guide early care professionals as they work toward becoming qualified teachers of young children. The New York State School-Age Care Credential Preparatory Program (SAC) is designed to promote quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training and evaluation of afterschool practitioners.

Forty six child care professionals went through the CDA and SAC programs at the Council in 2015. Additionally, the Council, in partnership with the Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region’s Capital South Campus Center (CSCC) hosted the first ever graduation for 20 of those child care professionals who completed their CDA at the new, state-of-the-art facility. The graduation was attended by students, their families, Council and CSCC staff, and local elected officials.
CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM

By using the CLASS system, a preschool teacher can assess the impact his or her interactions have on children’s learning and emotional wellness.

The CLASS tool measures interactions teachers have with children to impact learning and development. The tool is divided into 3 sections: Emotional Support, Behavior Management, and Instructional Support. In the 2014–2015 school year, the Education Team administered the tool to 47 early childhood classrooms in both the fall and spring. Each observation was followed by a debrief meeting with the teaching team which included coaching to increase the quality of interactions in the classroom. Additionally, the CDCCC houses a master trainer to train observers to become reliable in the observation tool. In 2015, 25 participants were trained to use the tool reliably.
Technical assistance in child care is a partnership between a teacher and a Council educator. As a team, they review goals, challenges, and develop plans to raise quality and improve outcomes for children. In 2013, one of these partnerships became the pilot episode of Make a Difference: One Play Space at a Time, a three day classroom makeover challenge. We had just ventured into the world of video, having filmed several in our series of toy making segments when the idea developed to take the show on the road. In 2015, we premiered our third episode at the Spectrum Theater in Albany.

The video, filmed at Deb Collins Family Child Care, is an example of the power of creativity, cooperation, and collaboration when applied to the collective goal of transforming a child care space. The process began with the coaching session between a Council educator and Deb, the family child care provider. Together they assessed the environment and developed a quality improvement plan.

That’s when the makeover began – a collective action of volunteers, child care teachers, families, and Council staff worked to redesign Deb’s child care space. In just three days, the classroom was completely transformed with the do-it-yourself skills of the volunteers and a very small budget for materials and supplies. The result was an amazing learning environment for the children and a sense of accomplishment, ownership, and community for Deb and her families. The resulting video, posted on YouTube, is a documentary of the process that continues to share ideas and inspire teachers watching via the internet. To date, the video series (three episodes) has been viewed over 2,000 times, a total of 8,825 minutes watched.

It is due to the arrangement of the space that children aged 10 months through 7 years are able to be involved in developmentally appropriate activities simultaneously.

Deb Collins
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Parents and families have a lasting impact on a child’s development. Meaningful family engagement in a child’s early learning supports school readiness and later academic success. Evidence shows that when partnerships are fostered among families, schools, individuals and community groups, it can directly impact the cognitive and social development of a child. This evidence led to the development of opportunities for children and adults to engage in meaningful experiences through parent cafés and workshops that support the development of the whole family through community collaborations.

Bigelow Corners Parent Cafés are for parents, grandparents, caregivers and community members to engage in conversations about keeping families strong through the building of protective factors.

Family engagement workshops happen throughout the Council’s service delivery area that have children and adults working together on activities that support the child’s cognitive and social-emotional development.

The Bigelow Corners Parent Cafes have helped me connect with parents that have children close to my child’s age. I have learned new ways to help my child and myself.

Schenectady mother, children ages 2 & 5

I loved being able to do different activities with my child. She really loved making puppets with mommy that we can use while reading her favorite stories.

Saratoga mother, child age 4
The Capital District Child Care Council (CDDCCC) is proud to have been selected by the Tech Valley Nonprofit Business Council (NBC) of the Capital Region Chamber to receive the 2015 Nonprofit Organization Award (1–74 employees). This award recognizes the CDDCCC’s leadership in community collaborations and was presented at the NBC annual luncheon on Friday, November 20 at River Stone Manor, Glenville.

CDDCCC is recognized as a nonprofit organization that has successfully built partnerships that contribute significantly to children and families in the Tech Valley community. Through innovative collaborations that positively impact children’s early education and social emotional wellness; programs that empower families; and strategies to improve student success in school; the CDDCCC’s work makes a lasting impact on the future success of the community as a whole.

The NBC provides educational programs throughout the year for nonprofit executives and staff; giving members insight into the latest trends and issues facing nonprofit organizations, while serving as a forum for nonprofits and for-profits to connect and collaborate to address common issues and opportunities. Each year, they select five outstanding, community-minded organizations to receive this prestigious honor.

Nominations for this award were solicited by NBC from the community. “We are honored to have been nominated for this award,” says Abbe Kovacik, CDDCCC Executive Director. “It is a privilege to support the community through the early education programs and collaborations we have developed. The honor is really to our amazing partners. It wouldn’t be possible to serve the community without them.”

The honor is really to our amazing partners. It wouldn’t be possible to serve the community without them.

PARTNERSHIPS

Albany Community Action Partnership
Schenectady Community Action Program
Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council
Commission on Economic Opportunity
Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc.
NorthernRivers
The Schenectady Foundation
The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region
The United Way of the Greater Capital Region
The Carlilian Foundation
William Gundry Broughton Charitable Private Foundation, Inc.
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
QUALITYstarsNY
New York State Department of Health
Albany County Department of Health
University at Albany School of Public Health
Bigelow Corners Partnership
The Albany Promise
The Schenectady Public Library
The Schenectady City School District
Albany City School District
Schenectady County Health Department
2015 FUNDING

- New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)
  - Child Care Resource and Referral
  - Regional Infant|Toddler Technical Assistance Center
- New York State Department of Health (DOH)
  - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
  - Eat Well Play Hard (EWPH)
  - Farm to Preschool
- Department of Social Services (DSS)
  - Albany County Registration
  - Rensselaer County Registration
  - Schenectady County Registration
- Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region
  - School-age Child Care Program Improvement Project
- General Electric Global Research Center
  - Options Program
- The United Way of the Greater Capital Region
  - BELL
  - Bigelow Partners
  - QUALITYstarsNY–Troy
- Funded projects and fees for service
- Membership, fundraising & other

FINANCIALS

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Annual audit performed by The Bonadio Group with no financial findings
We engage our communities through active participation in authentic and meaningful events that reinforce our mission to support early childhood education and quality care. We push up our sleeves and do the hard work first; and then we join the fun. This collection of photos illustrate our synergy, passion, and ongoing community involvement.

BEHIND THE SCENES