



The Ocean County Council for Young Children is a group *where parents/families come together with service providers and other community stakeholders as active partners to identify and discuss the needs, concerns, aspirations and successes regarding issues that affect the health, education and well-being of children and families. Members share ideas, thoughts and resources while they work together to educate themselves and others on resources as well as identify projects to work on to better Ocean County.*

Meetings are held in various locations and different days and times each month. Our meeting dates are posted on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/monmouthoceanccyc/>

Programs and Partnerships brought to Ocean County through the CCYC included:

- Nutrition and Low Cost Meal Planning and Exercise workshops (SNAP-ED, CARC, Fulfill)
- Marketplace & Health Insurance Information (FRN, VNAHG)
- Mental Health and Substance Use supports and information (CIACC, PICK Awareness, RWJ Prevention Institute)
- Health Information/resources including: prevention/treatment of Lice, Tick and Lyme's Disease, Zika Virus prevention, Smoking Cessation, Lead poisoning and remediation, Juuling and Vaping, HPV and prevention (Lice Lifters, OCHD, Rutgers Co-Op, NJ Quit Connection, CJFHC, CARC)
- Wellness and Caregiver Resources and Education (VNA, Center for Conscious Caregiving)
- Home Visitation Options for families (Central Intake, VNA/Preferred, St Francis, FSC, OCHD, NJEIS)
- Dental Screenings for children (Local Dental Hygienist affiliated with CCYC)
- Parent/Caregiver Education: leadership, parent resiliency, parental rights in special education, disabilities, school readiness, childcare, child development and behavior, resources for teens-(SFI, SPAN, FRN, NJEIS, OCNAEYC, various PTOs/PTAs, Grow NJ Kids TA and QIS, Prevent Child Abuse NJ, FSC/CHS)
- School District and Child Care Center supports including parent engagement and education opportunities for staff and parents/caregivers on a variety of topics such as: overall child development, supporting caregivers and families, concrete supports and services in our community and special interest topics such as specific disabilities, special education topics and life skills for parents/caregivers. Participation in Ocean Co Chapter of NAEYC's staff development day and family events.
- Recreational/Social opportunities for caregivers and their families (OC Library System, OC Parks and Recreation Dept., We are TR, TR Health Coalition, Zzak Applaud Our Kids Inc.)

Successes of Ocean County CCYC include:

Lakewood School Readiness Initiative- Through funding through the United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties- a 6-session course on School Readiness was held in Lakewood focusing on families with children birth to 5 years old- 82 parents/caregivers participated in 2019.

Family Resource Nights held in Seaside Heights in conjunction with over 25 community partners including resources on education, literacy, health and recreation. Families participated in activities and crafts together, were visited by OC Library mascot and were treated to free food and entertainment by "Mr. Scott The Musicman" and Zumba with Aurora. In addition, over 75 children were fingerprinted and given cards for their parents to keep in the event of an emergency.

"CCYC Education and Health Acronyms and Abbreviations Resource"- CCYC members and partners created this resource and distributed to help increase parents/families competence and confidence.

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“Barbershops N Books” - CCYC members felt this would be a great way to encourage literacy and help father figures connect with children- to date 16 Barbershops, in several OC towns are partners in this endeavor. NEW for 2019 Bubbles and Books- same concept as Barbers program but bringing free books and literacy information to local laundromats.

“CCYC Spectacular Summer Free and Low Cost Activities”-2017-2019 CCYC parents and partners compiled list of low cost/free activities to do in the Summer and distributed to local libraries as well as all parents affiliated with CCYC and it’s partners.

Recognitions

“Good Neighbor Award” received from the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore for the coordinator and CCYC partners’ role in a newly formed group in Seaside Heights- 2018

“Community Impact Award” received from the NJ Family Success Centers for the leadership and partnership given to Ocean County agencies and families – 2017

“Jolly K Award Nominee” - NJ Chapter for Parents’ Anonymous -2017

“Leading by Convening- Exemplary Family Leadership Practices” – Honorable mention – SPAN NJ – 2017

