



**Children's Working Group
Give Every Child a Chance to Succeed**

**Co-Chairs: Jacqueline Hall, ECDSS
Aimee Neri, NYS Family Court Improvement Project
August 21, 2020
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM**

Attendees: Broderick Cason, Lynn Pullano, Lea Passage, Kelli Blakely, Kelly Dodd, Sarah Utkin, Al Delmerico, Mary Comtois, Sue Green, Vonetta Rhodes, Trish Kirst, Hannah Holden, Aimee Neri, and Jacqueline Hall.

Ms. Hall welcomed attendees and recapped the July meeting.

Ms. Pullano and Ms. Passage reviewed the goals of the Best Beginnings Partnership and specifically their relationship with ECCPASA (Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse). The partnership between ECCPASA and Best Beginnings Partnership follows other similar connections with Univera and EPIC. Ms. Pullano and Ms. Passage remain interested in making connections with individuals and organizations that should be included in their initiative as well as those that should be included in the work of the Live Well Erie Children's Working Group.

Ms. Neri reviewed a document entitled "What Racism Looks Like" as the foundation for a group discussion of structural racism. Ms. Green shared that some of her students of color stated that the use of stereotypically Black names such as "Jamal" in pieces on structural racism can be triggering. Mr. Cason and Ms. Rhodes agreed. Ms. Neri thanked them for sharing that information. The group then viewed a video on structural racism (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO_bdQ&vl=en), and Mr. Cason observed that the narrator had a slight Mexican accent, and wondered if that was a deliberate choice of the filmmakers.

The working group members broke into three discussion groups to engage in an exercise using the Racial Equity Lens Tool to evaluate the partnership between the Best Beginnings Partnership and ECCPASA. The groups met for 15 minutes, and came together in the larger group to report out. All the groups needed additional time to complete the Racial Equity Lens Tool questions, and will continue in the September working group meeting.

Ms. Hall and Ms. Neri closed the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, September 18, 2020 @ 9 AM