

# Providence Children & Youth Cabinet

## *Convene. Prioritize. Take Action.*



### News Digest – February 2017

#### Community members build trust in our Health Equity Zone

The CYC's connecting neighbors group began a block party project last summer with the intention of creating free, pro-social opportunities for residents in the West End, Elmwood, and South Side of Providence. The project is meant to encourage neighbors to connect with each other in a safe, friendly, and fun setting. Last summer this group was able to plan for and execute two events and create a block party toolkit for public access. The inaugural event was a "pop up barbeque" on the lawn of the Knight Memorial Library on Elmwood Avenue. Community partnership members who hosted the event provided music and offered barbequed food for 35 attendees. The second event was a true block party located in the park on the corner of Sprague and Westfield Street, activities included food trucks, family games, and arts for children. This group wants to support anyone interested in hosting a pop up barbeque or block party, please call Maryclaire Knight for more information at 401-265-3642.



#### Everett Company, Stage, and School performs for launch of Building Trauma Sensitive Schools project

In December at Roger Williams Middle School, one hundred teachers and school professionals attended a theatre performance, which officially launched the CYC's Building Trauma Sensitive Schools Project funded by US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Everett Company, Stage, and School showcased students and young adults as local artists through a theatre performance consisting of storytelling, dance, and spoken word. The show was followed by a 30-minute session of open dialogue with performers sharing their personal stories of youth trauma and crisis. Youth from middle school to early adulthood shared stories detailing the experience of trauma and resiliency; making deep connections with the adults in the audience. All educators and administrators left with a package full of tools to use for strategy, signs, and self-care. The launch of BTSS will continue with performances scheduled to take place for teachers and administrators in Del Sesto and Gilbert Stuart Middle School. This theatrical launch of the BTSS project is our first broad step into building widespread awareness around youth PTSD and trauma sensitivity.



## CYC High School, College and Career Workgroup celebrates culmination of Lumina grant

In December the High School, College, and Career Workgroup (HSCC) convened to celebrate and reflect upon what they had accomplished as part of their grant from the Lumina Foundation. Since the award in 2014, the HSCC workgroup supported the roll-out of the Richer Picture case management system (a database which focuses on improving student attendance, FAFSA completion, and individual learning plans), incentivized students to complete FAFSAs at higher rates, completed a 2 year Latino success pilot at Rhode Island College, and produced a 'Minding the Gap' report aimed at increasing college persistence across the state of Rhode Island. In December, the Annenberg Institute and the CYC published research findings and recommendations derived from the Latino Student Success Pilot at RIC, available for download at [cycprovidence.org](http://cycprovidence.org). The group also celebrated a grant from the United Way to continue their college completion efforts and establish the Graduate RI! Initiative. Our valued partners look forward to building on their success and sustaining this valuable work!

## CYC Board Comings and Goings

**Fond Farewells** – at the end of 2016 we said goodbye to some of our founding board members. Their leadership and commitment has been extraordinary and we send them a huge thank you!



Angela Romans, Co-Director of District & Systems Transformation at the Annenberg Institute has been a leader in the CYC since it's inception



Adam Greenman, Executive Vice President at United Way of RI, led the CYC's governance committee and contributed to our strategic plan.



Jessie Watrous came to the CYC board from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Jessie has been a key partner for years on the Evidence2Success initiative.



Jason Becker became involved with the CYC as a Harvard Strategic Data Fellow for the Annenberg Institute and Providence Public Schools.

**Warm Welcomes** – we are excited to welcome some exceptional leaders to our board. Thank you in advance for your service



Cynthia Weaver is a Senior Associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Cynthia has been working with the CYC for several years as a leader in the Evidence2Success initiative.



Chace Baptista operates as a marketing consultant and has actively served on the CYC's community partnership table among other CYC groups for over 3 years.