

APRIL 2023

WARREN HEALTH EQUITY ZONE

Newsletter

COMMUNITY ~ CIRCLES ~ COLLABORATION

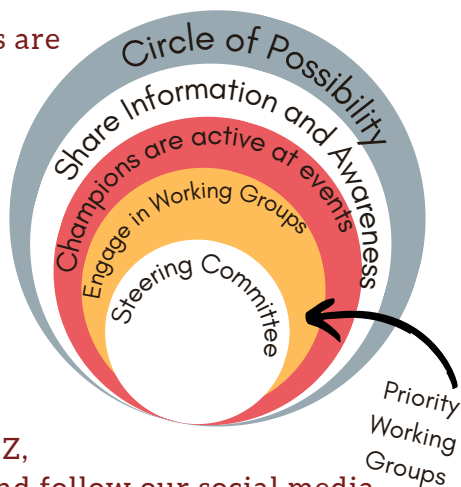
BY KRISTIN READ

Staff at Warren HEZ are excited to celebrate the second half of year two!

New staff and expert help have allowed us to partner and participate in important civic and community events. We have established *Priority Work Groups* and a strong *Steering Committee*.

Residents and partner stakeholders are making time and putting effort into expanding these *Circles of Engagement*, which shapes the HEZ's collective impact work. You are invited to join the collaboration wherever you fit in!

To stay up to date with Warren HEZ, please sign up for our newsletter and follow our social media. You can find contact info on page 4.



IN THIS ISSUE:

NEW STAFF • UPDATES NEEDED FOR MEDICAID RENEWAL • HEZ INTRODUCES A CROWD-SOURCED CALENDAR OF CHILDREN'S EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS!

Priority-Based Work Groups Forming!

Be part of monthly meetings for one of three priority areas:

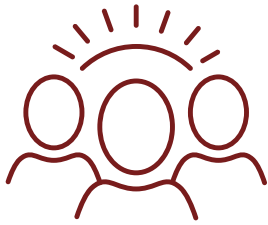
1. Safe & Affordable **HOUSING** and Utilities
2. Supports & Spaces for **TEENS** and Young Adults
3. **FOOD** Systems to decrease insecurity and increase Nutrition and Connections

To learn more and to sign up for a work group, please see the last page of this newsletter for contact information.



east bay community action program
THE BRIDGE TO SELF-RELIANCE

Health Equity Zones are an initiative of the Rhode Island Department of Health. East Bay Community Action Program is the backbone agency for the Warren, Bristol, and East Providence Health Equity Zones.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT!

Ari Samayoa is a new Community Health Worker with Warren HEZ. Ari works with residents regarding supplemental food (SNAP/WIC), housing and heating assistance (LIHEAP), and navigating medical, dental, and mental health services. Ari is a former AmeriCorps VISTA who served in Massachusetts and Texas to reduce opioid deaths and ensure health materials were translated and readable for all residents. You will find Ari out and about in Warren, or at St. Mary's Pantry helping and connecting with residents.

WHAT IS A HEZ?

Established in July 2021, the Warren Health Equity Zone is a place-based collaborative created to reduce and eliminate current health disparities and barriers to wellness.

To learn more, please scan the QR code below or visit our Link Tree at the link below.



<https://linktr.ee/warrenhez>

ATTENTION MEDICAID RECIPIENTS!

During the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, Rhode Islanders were automatically renewed for Medicaid each year. Due to federal changes, starting April 1st, people enrolled in Medicaid must recertify to make sure they still qualify.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) will contact you to let you know what is needed. Here's how to be prepared:

If you have moved in the last three years, please update your address information by logging into your Health Source RI (HSRI) account at <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/> or by contacting your health plan.

Always open mail that you receive with a return address from "State of Rhode Island" or "HealthSourceRI".

Interested in attending an event where you can receive help to renew your Medicaid information? Please contact Warren HEZ by email (warrenhez@ebcap.org) or by phone (401-847-7821, ext. 1635) for more information.

NEW FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: EVENT AND WORKSHOP CALENDAR!

Find it on the *Bristol Warren Thrive By Five and Beyond* event page [here](#) or with the QR code below.



HEZ SUCCESS STORIES!

- Thanks to the Pre-School Development Grant, the Warren HEZ & Bristol HEZ partnered with *The Autism Project* to host 'Sensory Friendly Story Times' at George Hail and Rogers Free Libraries. Throughout the event visual story telling techniques were highlighted, kids were provided fidget toys and a variety of supports were used to enhance engagement. Parents were provided take home resources.
- Outreach Specialists helped residents with SNAP and Medicaid applications at the Cape Verdean Progressive Center on March 25th in East Providence. More than 100 people participated in the event and about 60 people applied for services!
- Community Health Workers based at Mt. Hope High School, helped coordinate Involvement Fairs to encourage students to participate in afterschool clubs, sports and other activities. There were 317 sign-ups for grades 9-11, in over 50 clubs!



HEZ team poses for a selfie after a successful Family Math & Literacy Night at Hugh Cole Elementary School

Maker's' Tool kits containing tape, scissors, markers and reusable materials were distributed by Warren HEZ & Bristol HEZ at family events held at Colt Andrews and Hugh Cole Elementary Schools in March. The aim was to encourage a "screen break" over spring break.

Over 300 kids and families attended the two events and 184 students left with maker tools!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR TOWN:

WARREN'S 31ST EARTH DAY CELEBRATION CLEAN UP SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND, 9AM

During the clean up, Dunkin Donuts coffee and baked goods will be provided; 12PM Lunch, Thank You, and Contest Awards! Begins and ends at Pete Sepe Pavilion, 50 Asylum Road, Warren RI 02855

HUGH COLE SPRING FEST SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH, 11AM-2PM

Explore a Resource Fair for kids and families, ride the Bike Safety Course, enjoy nibbles from Food Trucks and more. Pete Sepe Pavilion, 50 Asylum Road, Warren

WHERE WARREN MEETS THE WATER, THURSDAY, MAY 4 6-8PM

Held by Warren HEZ. Come build skills and share strengths that will help Warren weather storms, floods, and environmental changes. Participants will receive a \$25 Gift Card for each workshop! George Hail

Free Library,
530 Main Street,
Warren

Register using
this QR Code!



SAVE THE DATE... HEZ LEARNING COMMUNITY TUESDAY, MAY 16TH

Residents, HEZ staff, and leaders from across the state will come together for shared learning experiences. It will be held at Rhode Island College. Passionate about Health Equity? Add your name to the mailing list

<https://mailchi.mp/health/hezupdate>

Warren HEZ knows that finding affordable childcare is important for many parents. Here is a no-cost, exceptional resource to learn more about!



East Bay Community Action Program Head Start

TO APPLY CALL 401-367-2001 OR VISIT www.ebcap.org

Head Start is now enrolling children for the 2023-2024 school year at the Mary V. Quirk (MVQ) School in Warren, RI!

The center is open Monday through Friday, 6 hours daily. Head Start at MVQ provides center-based, early childhood education services that are offered to eligible Warren families.

EBCAP serves children ages 3-5 who live in Warren, Bristol, Barrington, East Providence, Newport, Middletown, Little Compton, Portsmouth, Tiverton, and Jamestown.

OUTREACH PHOTOS FROM EVENTS



Great readers at Head Start's "Dads Dinner and Dinosaurs"



Trash to treasures shared at Science, Math & Literacy Nights



Community Conversations at Jefferson St. Armory & Senior Ctr.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

CONTACT US

KRISTIN READ, *DIRECTOR*

ELSA SCHLOEMER,

COORDINATOR

NATALE CHASSE, *FAMILY*

NAVIGATOR

ARI SAMAYOA, *COMMUNITY*

HEALTH WORKER

BROOKE CONNEALLY,

COMMUNICATIONS

WARRENHEZ@EBCAP.ORG

401-847-7821, EXT. 1635

WE ARE LOCATED:

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WARREN, RI 02885

FOLLOW US



WARREN HEALTH EQUITY ZONE



@WARRENHEZ