

Skinner North Diverse Needs Committee Planning Meeting
March 10, 2023, 8:30 am, Parent Room, Rm 105 OR [Join via zoom](#)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Q3 and Q4 meeting dates - confirm; Fridays, 8:30am in the Parent Room, and hybrid
 - a. April 14
 - b. May 12
3. Executive Function caregiver program (led by Jenn, Andy and Nootan)
 - a. March 21, 2023
 - b. [More info here](#) - please spread the word!
 - c. Jenn getting check from FOSN next week
 - d. Confirmed that young people can attend with their caregiver
 - e. Entry at main entrance of school
 - f. Jenn checking on whether EE is ok with recording
 - g. Andy checking with school staff about recording capability
 - h. Outreach to do:
 - i. Room parents (4th - 8th)
 - ii. Dedicated email to IEP/504 families (NB to email JJ and Amy)
 - iii. Principal email going out today
 - iv. Facebook groups
 - v. SNUG
 - vi. Dedicated email to the SNDN google group
4. Caregiver Community Building (led by Boyoung - *anyone is welcome to assist*)
 - a. Another date for this year?
 - b. Ideas for topics
 - i. Parent discussion for writing goals / actions for learning plans
 - ii. BH share experience as a HS teacher, which could be helpful for parents - spring (closer to end of year - May)
 - iii. BH will email JJ about inviting our DN teacher teams to be featured, set up date
 - iv. NB will publish diagram about Social Work and Counseling
5. Goal Ball ([learn more here](#)) paralympic sport (led by Andy - *anyone is welcome to assist*)
 - a. Hope to announce info about the game coming to PE classes, take some photos, to share with the whole school community
 - b. Mr. Popowich has outlined how this can happen as 2-days.
 - c. Next step is to schedule it!
 - d. More to come, Andy meets Sheena regularly as Neem plays with Park District

6. Book or media discussion, or buddy classroom experience
 - a. Potential for upper grade kids to lead discussions
 - b. Utilize the autism deck created last year
 - c. Delivery amongst students will be different than delivery from teachers
 - d. NB to email Jenn, Boyoung, Chanel, discuss if we could assist in seeing this through
 - e. Jenn can lead by being in contact with Mr. Schroeder and 8th grade.

7. Nora Project staff training - updates
 - a. [Points to Ponder - intro for teachers \(youtube link\)](#)
 - b. How can Committee help to bring this to teachers before next school year
 - c. To follow up on this - can we help to get this into teachers PD for late summer?

8. Discussion of new ideas/initiatives - poll to inform *next* year: 2023-24
 - a. Student group - affinity group
 - i. JJ will ask around (maybe Ms. Penn?) whether there's a teacher that might want to lead something once a month (lunch and recess times), 5-8grds
 - ii. Could introduce this year and continue next year
 - iii. 8th graders - once they know where they will be attending next year, get together and discuss questions, etc
 - b. Family outings - creating community amongst families
 - i. Climbing, or active event
 - ii. Sensory friendly performance or movie
 - c. After school executive functioning class series
 - d. Assembly in school for executive functioning
 - e. Book club - still interesting but needs a lead

9. Mental health and well being - parent program - *currently nothing planned yet, volunteers needed*
 - a. Johanna planning student curriculum for spring re mental health, based on Erika's Lighthouse <https://www.erikaslighthouse.org/>
 - i. And their parent facing presentation <https://www.erikaslighthouse.org/the-parent-handbook-on-childhood-and-teen-depression-1/>
 - ii. CPS staff went through curriculum
 - b. Johanna and Ms. Walsh have two caregiver meetings in planning stages for April, younger grades and older grades
 - c. Younger grades 2-5: Overview, how to stay connected to child
 - d. Older grades 6-8: signs of depression

e. Will also be sharing resources with families, such as from NAMI Chicago

10. Website based resources - updates in process

- a. Expand on the process of identification of the potential need for an IEP or 504
 - i. Katie and Johanna to review, provide edits
 - ii. possibly a caregiver-facing flow chart for the process
- b. We've amassed several photos from two+ years of events and initiatives - running slide show of the work
- c. Add a resource: [Ableism Packet](#), created in collaboration with Diversity Committee last year
- d. Add definition: [Ability Inclusive Mindset \(AIM\)](#)

11. Disability Activists and Activism - led by Nootan and Andy - *anyone is welcome to join this awareness effort, for continued brainstorming, research, creating learning tools, etc.*

- a. AO and NB will connect with folks that submitted these to learn more and feature
- b. Suggestions from SN community so far:
 - i. **Karen Tamley** - Karen Tamley is the executive director of Access Living, an important disability rights advocacy organization here in Chicago. Access Living is a national leader on disability advocacy.
Submitted by Erin Aleman
 - ii. **Justin Cooper** - Justin is the president of Access Living's Young Professionals Council and the Head Marshal of the annual Chicago Disability Pride Parade, and does advocacy work for Advance Your Leadership Power (racial/social justice advocacy group at Access Living) and the Chicago Disability Activism Collective (CDAC). He is a filmmaker and photographer who showed at UIC Gallery 400 in early 2022 in our exterior public art window gallery, <https://gallery400.uic.edu/exhibition/through-my-lens-justin-cooper/> He has previously conducted workshops (<https://mcachicago.org/calendar/2022/04/common-use-access-praxis-justin-cooper>)
Submitted by Lorelei Stewart
 - iii. **Sky Cubacub** - Sky works across multiple media to intersectionally address ableism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia. Sky runs Rebirth Garments, which "challenges mainstream beauty standards that are sizeist, ableist, and conform to the gender binary." Sky has run workshops (info listed on their website). They were named 2018 Chicagoan of the Year by the Chicago Tribune. Sky will be included in the early 2023 exhibition at UIC Gallery 400.
Submitted by Lorelei Stewart

- iv. **Kennedy Healy** - Kennedy founded Crip Crap Media, which is a consulting business that supports people in the media, art, and theatre realms to create disability-friendly media. Kennedy also co-authored this great photo essay, <https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/2022/02/08/care-during-covid-photo-essay-on-interdependence/>, which we are currently exhibiting at UIC Gallery 400.

Submitted by Lorelei Stewart

- c. [Add ideas here!](#)
- d. Via FOSN and as one-sheets available for classroom or families
- e. Maybe 2x per quarter?
- f. Intention is for community-wide learning of what has changed, what needs to be changed, and inspirations to be a part of the change
- g. Could be helpful for students, and also 5 - 6 diverse needs teachers
- h. Could pick up in some way for Buddy classroom events
- i. Share document with Katie Magnuson as we work on it
- j. Potential for student research involvement
- k. Middle school teachers could share with students directly in small groups
- l. Some quick recommendations
- i. Crip Camp - movie
 - ii. Temple Grandin - activist
12. LSC sub-committee attendance to deliver report
- a. Thursday, March 16, 2023 - 7PM
 - b. Wednesday, April 12, 2023 - 10AM
 - c. Thursday, May 18, 2023 - 7PM
 - d. Evening meetings will be virtual, daytime meetings will be in-person and virtual
 - e. Katie can deliver updates on our behalf

13. Resources

- a. [Monthly meeting notes at Skinner North Diverse Needs website](#)
- b. SN has purchased two Nora Project curricula in 2021, but they haven't yet been *formally* rolled out in classrooms.
 - i. [General overview](#) of two curricula
 - ii. Needs access to be granted by Nora Project - if interested in these tools to create something for SN Community, Andy is in contact with Nora Project and can request on your behalf
- c. [Skyline required texts and materials list](#)
- d. [CPS Online Library](#)
 - i. Access SN Library catalog
 1. [CPS online library here](#)

2. In the School tab, type Skinner North
 3. Then click LS2 PAC
 4. Then type keyword / author / title to search
 5. You can filter on the left side
 6. SN Library assistant, Mahjabeen Syed
- e. [SEL Learning Standards](#)