



## Healthi Kids Staff Summary

July – December 2020

Hello Coalition Members,

The last several months have indeed brought *countless* challenges for us all. However, they have also opened the door for many new opportunities for Healthi Kids' work. A light has been shed on the importance of, and need for whole child health in our community, and our team has certainly been feeling the demand for our efforts, now more than ever. Over the last year, we have fostered new partnerships to bridge the gaps the pandemic has widened, in ways like never before, as we continue to push and strive for health equity across our region.

To ensure that we have the capacity to keep up with the increased demand for whole child health, we have once again expanded our team! In December, we welcomed Beatriz LeBron as Healthi Kids' PlayROCs Project Coordinator. Beatriz will focus on executing Healthi Kids' PlayROCs campaign. Her role includes developing strategies and tactics that advance play as a cornerstone of whole child health in schools and in neighborhoods. We are thrilled to have Beatriz on board!

Below are the highlights of what we've been up to:

### **ENSURE EVERY CHILD IS HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTED IN THE PLACES THEY LEARN:**

- **Advance policies in schools and early learning environments to improve quality nutrition, physical activity, and social-emotional learning**
  - *Community schools:* Healthi Kids continues to support community schools in the Rochester City School District. We provide ongoing technical assistance, support and resources for advancing policy, systems and practice changes that support healthier kids to nine school buildings, RCSD leadership, and to the broader cohort of community schools. Healthi Kids also continues to co-chair the Community Schools Leadership Team.
  - *Technical assistance & advocacy to the district:* Healthi Kids continues to provide technical assistance to the RCSD Athletics Director, Wellness Task Force, and Community Schools Director for seeking out professional development opportunities to support staff in the district.
  - *Supporting school systems:* Healthi Kids continues to sit at the RCSD Wellness Task Force, and sits at the Community Engagement Teams (CETs) at nine schools in RCSD. We also chair School 17's the Health and Wellness team, which is a governing body for healthy food environments, their Comprehensive In School Physical Activity Plan (CSPAP), and gardening initiatives for raised beds and their greenhouse. Healthi Kids continues to provide technical assistance to school leadership by sharing online resources and reputable COVID guidance, and finding online professional development opportunities. These resources are shared in a weekly Wednesday Wellness email blast, as well as on social media and in stakeholder (CETs, building level staff & champions, partners, parents, board and committee appointments etc.) zoom meetings.
  - *Centering inclusion and equity in education:* While supporting efforts around CSPAP, community and family engagement, and healthy nutrition environments, Healthi Kids continues to prioritize sharing



- diversity and inclusion information as key components of this work. We also continue to participate in the district's Wellness Task Force, providing best practices, resources, and technical assistance to district officials in response to COVID-19.
- *Results from the NYS Department of Health's Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) intervention:* Healthi Kids received the results of the impact of our work over the last 5 years through our Department of Health intervention in 9 schools. Some highlights include:
    - Family wellness activities that include nutrition and physical activity (PA) increased from 30% to 90%
    - All drinks sold to students during the school day meet USDA requirements increased from 20% to 90%
    - Schools allowing food celebrations but with some restrictions increased from 50% to 70%
    - Schools participating in fundraisers that only involve selling food/beverages decreased from 80% to 40%
  - *Comprehensive In School Physical Activity:* Healthi Kids will be completing distribution of yoga supplies, school social distancing physical activity floor stickers and CSPAP supplies for 100 school staff from the 9 schools in our current portfolio. These supplies are an effort to promote healthy and fun activities that can be demonstrated in online classes and when staff return to the schools.
  - *Whole child health in schools:* Healthi Kids staff has been working alongside the RCSD and its administration to understand how we can support whole child health and the Whole School, Whole Community and Whole Child (WSCC) model during times of COVID-19. We are providing technical assistance and resources to ensure all kids are supported throughout the city and region.
  - **Ensuring access to enrichment activities**
    - *Advocating at the state for out of school time:* Healthi Kids is an active member of the Network for Youth Success' Policy Committee. Over the past six months, the policy committee has been developing state-wide recommendations on out of school time needs during the pandemic; and developing budget priorities/messaging for 2021.
    - *Amending state regulations around out of school time to support kids & families:* Over the past six months, GRASSA's advocacy committee (co-chaired by Jenn), has been working to identify out of school time provider priorities; and advocate for change. In the summer, our team identified a series of five key recommendations that were shared with the Governor and our local delegation. We leveraged our relationships, and partnership with the Network for Youth Success to address several COVID-19 regulations that were hindering provider's ability to provide service to children and families.
    - *Youth Services & Quality Council:* Healthi Kids is also holding an executive committee membership role at the Youth Services and Quality Council (YSQC) of Rochester and Monroe County. In this role, we are able to share out information to schools, partners and stakeholders to create a systems wide approach to wellness for youth serving organizations.
  - **Support high-quality, trauma-informed early childhood education and the early childhood education profession**
    - *Aligning child care and out of school time advocacy priorities:* The Healthi Kids team continues to find ways, in partnership with the Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) and GRASSA, to ensure that the out of school time and child care communities are aligned with their overall advocacy asks with the state. We have begun conversations with both ECDI and GRASSA advocacy committees to expand membership of the group, and also prioritize opportunities for joint advocacy.



- **Promote opportunities for inclusive family and community engagement**

- *My Brother's Keeper*: Healthi Kids continues to collaborate with the City of Rochester and the Rochester City School District to more effectively engage with young men and fathers. Throughout the pandemic My Brother's Keeper has continued to host online meetings that are building relationships and offering support to men of color in Rochester.
- *PECAN*: Healthi Kids continues to support Roc the Future's PECAN (Parent Engagement Collaboration Action Network). PECAN continues to grow in number and increase its reach to parents in the City of Rochester. Healthi Kids has connected PECAN to community experts to help parents better understand COVID and the reopening of schools. Healthi Kids will continue to support PECAN in the upcoming year.
- *Authentic parent engagement*: Healthi Kids continues to collaborate with RCSD Office of Parent Engagement regularly, offering professional development to parent liaisons on effective ways to engage parents and families.

### **ADVANCE EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES FOR ALL KIDS TO GROW AND THRIVE:**

- **Advance changes to the built environment to ensure every family has healthy supportive infrastructure in their neighborhoods**

- *Mayor's Leadership Training Institute*: Healthi Kids was asked to be a presenter at the Mayor's Leadership Training Institute. The Institute offers a way for residents in the City of Rochester to learn more about government processes and how they can transform their neighborhoods. Healthi Kids presented to the team of leaders on two topics: how residents can bring about change in your neighborhood; and ways to promote neighborhood safety for kids.
- *drive2Bbetter*: Healthi Kids, along with Causewave Community Partners and other partners, continued work on drive2Bbetter, a public education campaign to promote pedestrian and bicyclist safety. The campaign continued distribution of its lawn sign initiative, with 135 new addresses receiving signs. The Steering Committee has successfully fundraised to support new activities, including the production of videos that will educate the public on the importance of driving more slowly to prevent crashes, serious injuries, and deaths.
- *Creating playful infrastructure*: Healthi Kids provided technical assistance and materials to the Lyell Branch Library, who carried out a playful sidewalk project. A local artist led a team of teens and library staff on paint day, and the "Lyell Branch in Bloom" mural now provides a beautiful and playful welcome to the library.
- *Healthy built environments planning*: Healthi Kids continues to advocate for complete streets principles to be included in city infrastructure policies and projects. Healthi Kids has been an active participant in several working groups and committees, including the West Main Street Multimodal and Placemaking Study Steering Committee, and the Inner Loop North Community Advisory Committee.

- **Expand opportunities for healthy food and food education in homes and neighborhoods.**

- *Food Policy Council*: Healthi Kids partnered with City of Rochester and Foodlink to engage the community and plan a Food Policy Council in Rochester. With funding from the Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge, this work builds upon Healthi Kids' successful advocacy for the inclusion of a Food Policy Council in the city's comprehensive plan, Rochester 2034. Resident leaders were added to the team to help guide the process, and virtual public meetings were held to get community



input. In the coming months, the project team will continue to work with the community to envision the Food Policy Council's structure and goals.

- *Statewide advocacy*: Healthi Kids continues to participate in the New York Grown Food for New York Kids Coalition to develop policy goals and advocate for farm-to-school programs. When New York State moved to roll out a Pandemic EBT program, Healthi Kids worked with statewide partners to improve the program and share information with parents.
- *Happy & Healthy Campaign*: Healthi Kids is seeking to promote the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables and their availability at local retail outlets and community gardens. With help from Kleehammer Communications, a campaign was developed to promote the message "Happy & Healthy". Animated videos shared the campaign message and thousands of campaign postcards were distributed by Foodlink, Department of Recreation and Human Services, Central Library, Ibero-American Action League, and other partners.
- *Closing COVID meal gaps*: As the pandemic forced schools to close, kids lost access to school buildings and the meals that they provide. Working with the Rochester City School District, Foodlink and other groups, Healthi Kids ensured emergency meals are available at city recreation centers and schools. Healthi Kids staff has also delivered boxes of food from Foodlink to some school families in high need. Additionally, Healthi Kids has provided information on school meals distribution sites for students, and free food pick up sites for families during the school year.
- *Worksite wellness*: Healthi Kids wrapped up its worksite wellness efforts under our Creating Healthy Schools & Communities (CHSC) grant from the NYS Department of Health, which ended in September. Over the last 5 years, Healthi Kids has supported 14 worksites in the City of Rochester. To capture the lessons learned from our work, we created a toolkit, which highlights the successes, challenges and keys to success for implementing worksite wellness strategies, specifically in youth-serving organizations. The toolkit will be uploaded to the Healthi Kids website shortly, so stay tuned!
- **Reduce the impact of crime and safety concerns on individual and community wellbeing**
  - *Supporting beautification of N. Clinton*: Healthi Kids continues to participate in the steering committee of Project CLEAN (Community, Law Enforcement, and Assistance Network) and currently chairs the Beautification Committee. Over the last 6 months we have developed key areas of focus for the beautification committee; and identified projects that we can work on as a team.

## **PROMOTE THE POWER OF PLAY FOR EVERY CHILD IN EVERY PLACE:**

- **Promote playful neighborhoods**
  - *Building a new advocacy agenda*: We started our year with the PlayROCs Advocacy Committee members brainstorming potential avenues for our policy agenda, now that Rochester 2034 has been adopted. While we began thinking of long term solutions, the pandemic led to the desire to have more immediate action and response. The team developed a COVID-19 PlayROCs Advocacy plan which included several ideas on how to promote play during times of a pandemic. This agenda has been driving forward the work of the PlayROCs Advocacy Committee over the last six months.
  - *PlayROCs Play Kits*: In response to COVID-19, the PlayROCs Advocacy Committee members wanted to ensure every child still had access to unstructured play throughout the summer. Caregivers have shared with Healthi Kids staff that they are resource-overloaded, but rarely have the material they need to execute the lessons or ideas they are seeing online. In partnership with the City of Rochester's Department of Recreation and Human Services, the PlayROCs Advocacy Committee developed a pilot to put unstructured play items into the hands of kids and families. Between May



2020 and August 2020, we have distributed **over 5,000** play kits across the City of Rochester. To date, the kits have been funded by both the Greater Rochester Health Foundation and the City of Rochester Department of Recreation and Human Services. We are currently working to secure additional funding to support more play kits in the New Year.

- *PlayROCs at Home social media challenge:* In conjunction with our play kit distribution, in May Healthi Kids kicked off our #playrocsathome social media challenge. The challenge asks anyone in the City of Rochester to share how they're playing during COVID-19. The Challenge has been very successful, and even the Mayor has participated!
- *Photovoice for Play:* Our team has partnered with Kate Mariner, an anthropologist from the University of Rochester, to conduct a study of our play based built environment projects across the city. Kate has been working with residents in the SW quad (Phillis Wheatley Story Walk), Beechwood (Story Walk & Complete Streets Makeover) and El Camino (Treyer St Garden) to conduct a photo voice project. We have a total of 17 residents participating in the project. We were set to host a gallery event for the project in June, but unfortunately due to the pandemic, we have had to postpone. We will revisit the opportunity for another showing of the photos in 2021. In the meantime, Kate is working on publications and a zine showcasing the residents work; and we have submitted an abstract about the work to present at the US Play Coalition's annual conference.
- *Project with Buffalo, New York:* the Project Play Western New York at the Buffalo Area Community Foundation asked to contract with us to expand their free play work in their region. Over the next five months, our team will provide support to the Project Play Western New York team and consultants on how to engage their local community to develop an advocacy agenda; and develop baseline data on the barriers to unstructured play in Buffalo, New York.
- **Safeguard play as a cornerstone of school learning**
  - *Coordination between ROC the Future Children Developmentally on Track:* We continue to participate as an active member in the Kids Developmentally on Track Strategy team of ROC the Future. Over the last six months, the team at Developmentally on Track agreed to investigate ways to fund a play-based learning pilot. In response, Healthi Kids brought that team together with Whole Child Connection and Aria Strategies to think through how we can work together to support play-based learning in the district through multiple funding streams and through already established mechanisms.
  - *Play and Education Convening:* As part of the PlayROCS COVID-19 advocacy strategy, residents have identified play in education as a key area of growth for the PlayROCs agenda. Throughout the pandemic (since March), it has become clear that there is a need across the Rochester community to bring people together to set a vision for play in education (and the school district); and then identify as a community how we are working towards that goal. The hope is that by bringing folks together, and developing a system, we are reducing silos, and being more effective in driving change for kiddos. We are planning to co-host this convening in the New Year with: Greater Rochester Health Foundation, Aria Strategies, Whole Child Connection, Greater Rochester After School and Summer Alliance (GRASSA), PlayROCs Advocacy Committee members, G2, and The Strong Museum of Play. Stay tuned in 2021 when we launch this convening for the broader Rochester community.
  - *Playworks:* This quarter, Healthi Kids has been working with Playworks, RCSD, Aria Strategies, Whole Child Connection and the Greater Rochester Health Foundation (GRHF) to start aligning the work of Playworks across all of our funding streams. Playworks currently has additional funding through Ralph C. Wilson, and we need to work together to find out what gap we need Playworks to fill in the





new COVID model of education. Our team has been amplifying the work and supporting Playworks in the recruitment of 15 schools to this project.

- **Invest in safe, accessible infrastructure that supports every child's right to play**

- *Advocating for an unstructured play fund:* As COVID-19 hit, several businesses began reaching out to Healthi Kids staff to ask how they could support the play kit initiative. We also began to get requests across the region from school districts and other non-profits for the kits. As a result, PlayROCS advocacy committee has revisited one of our first policy levers – establishing a play fund. Healthi Kids staff has been working with local funders to see the development of an unstructured play fund is realistic and achievable. The unstructured play fund will support residents, neighborhood associations, block clubs, PTO/A's, the faith community and other community-based partners to fund innovative approaches that promote unstructured play in neighborhoods and in schools. We are currently working with our local funding community to establish a fund that will meet the needs of residents.
- *Play Walk 2.0:* We continue to work with the Urban Conga to develop and execute the next stage of the Play Walk. The Urban Conga is currently developing a concept called "The Ripple". The concept of "Ripple" is based on the flowing movement of the Genesee River. The intervention will be a series of units that were formed based on the unique shape of the lilac flower. These units act as pixels that can be rotated to draw out pixelated illustrations. Creating a piece that is always changing and adapting to the people using it, and an ever-changing photogenic moment that would reflect the changing environment. The project is currently in fabrication and will be installed at MLK Park in spring 2021. The City is also planning to invest additional funds for new benches around the installation, and trail markers to connect the existing Play Walk, along with some other updates and maintenance to the original Play Walk!
- *Partnership with DRHS:* Our Department of Recreation and Human Services continues to partner with Healthi Kids to take on more unstructured play efforts as part of their programming. As a result, staff have been working closely with the team at DRHS to help facilitate and align their systems with community need. Over the last quarter, DRHS has been sharing staff with Healthi Kids through AmeriCorps and their Rec on the Move program to support our aligned work and efforts to advance neighborhood play.
- *KABOOM! Playground Project:* In partnership with ROC the Future, we have continued to work on creating a new playground in the City of Rochester. After convening a workgroup to review play desert data, and sharing several recommendations with the city, the location of the playground has been finalized. We are excited to share that a teen focused play space will be built at Grand Ave Park, with the City of Rochester willing to take ownership of the ongoing maintenance. Due to COVID-19 – installation of the playground has been delayed until the summer of 2021. During the next few months the workgroup will focus its efforts on community and youth engagement in the Beechwood neighborhood, which will inform and determine the final design of the play space.
- *Safe Routes to Parks/ 10 Minute Walk to Park Commitment:* In December, we partnered with DRHS and Ibero-American Development Corporation to submit a grant to implement the Rochester 2034's comprehensive plan recommendations around the 10 minute walk to park commitment. If we secure funding, the grant will allow us to hire resident leaders to pilot activation strategies in parks, and to develop an advocacy toolkit on how neighbors can improve their local parks.

## EXPAND ACCESS TO SERVICES THAT BUILD HEALTHY MINDS AND HEALTHY FAMILIES:

- **Support policies advancing infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) services**
  - *Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) presentation.* Healthi Kids continues to present to community based organizations and parents on IECMH in a way that is culturally relatable and relevant.
  - *Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Community Table:* In partnership with the Society for the Protection and Care Children (SPCC), Healthi Kids will develop a table that will work to increase community awareness and the importance of IECMH and ensure that we are meeting the needs of the community.
  - *Project LAUNCH:* Healthi Kids continues to be active in national, state, and community efforts to advance policies that support, and build awareness of, the importance of early infant-caregiver relationships to healthy childhood development. One of those projects is Project LAUNCH, a federally funded initiative led by the Children’s Institute, which aims to help integrate organizations that work with children and families in the City of Rochester to promote the wellness of kids from ages 0 - 8. We continue to participate as the infant mental health advocacy voice for the project, as well as lead the development of the project’s Young Child Wellness Council, ensuring that parents are at the center of decision-making for the table.
  - *NYS-Alliance for Infant Mental Health:* Healthi Kids continues to serve on the NYS Alliance for Infant Mental Health (AIMH) Board of Directors and Executive Committee. In this role, we are leading efforts to increase awareness and build competencies in infant mental health among policymakers, advocates, lawyers, and judges who work with, or on behalf of, children ages 0-5 and their families. In August, Healthi Kids members attended and supported over 50 members of Rochester’s early childhood community to participate in the New York State Association for Infant Mental Health’s (NYS-AIMH) 2-day training on the importance of play in the social-emotional development of infants and young children.
  - *Monroe County Child Welfare Court Improvement Project:* Healthi Kids has continued our participation in the Monroe County Child Welfare Court Improvement Project, working with community parents to explore the development of a Safe Babies Court Team to support young children in foster care through an infant mental health-informed approach.
- **Eliminate barriers to accessing high quality early intervention services for all children**
  - *Finger Lakes Regional Early Childhood Coalition:* Throughout the summer and fall, Healthi Kids worked with the S2AY Rural Health Network and the Finger Lakes Regional Early Childhood Coalition to survey parents and providers about their experiences with Early Intervention (EI) teletherapy during COVID-19. Approximately 80 providers across 11 counties and 60 parents across 5 counties responded to the survey. Healthi Kids analyzed these survey results, along with results from the Monroe County Parents Helping Parents EI parent and provider surveys, to develop recommendations on the continued use of teletherapy for EI services. Healthi Kids shared the survey results and recommendations with the NYS Bureau of Early Intervention in December.
  - *Kids Can’t Wait Advocacy:* Healthi Kids has continued to participate on the statewide Kids Can’t Wait Leader’s Council, which has worked together to advocate for policies that would improve timely access to Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education.

## GENERAL UPDATES:

- **Sharing our work with elected officials:**

- *Member resource fair:* In December, we partnered with The Children’s Agenda to host a resource fair for the New York State assembly/senate members in Monroe County. The first of its kind, nonpartisan event, was an opportunity for the Monroe County delegation to learn about key health resources in the community. The delegation met with 16 organizations. It was an opportunity to learn how these community partners can support their legislative priorities and their constituent requests. In January, we will be creating a resource fair related to children’s issues. Stay tuned!
- *Partnership with Councilmembers:* We are currently collaborating with three of our city council members on ongoing projects related to healthy food access, speed limit, and access to parks.
- *Sharing our work with the State & fostering alignment between NYSED, DOH, and OCFS:* We continue to share with the office of the professions our work, and open opportunities for further discussion on infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH), early intervention (EI), Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) designation, and play based learning. In the last 6 months, we have also met with several folks in the Office of Children and Family Services, Department of Health, New York State Department of Education, and the Council of Children and Families to share what is happening on the ground related to COVID-19, and advocate for regulatory change to support kids and families.
  - Healthi Kids is also now participating in state tables related to early intervention, home visitation, and infant and early childhood mental health. This includes the Early Childhood Advisory Council’s early childhood career ladder workgroup, which is leading efforts to examine and develop recommendations to improve existing career pathways for professionals working in Early Intervention, infant mental health, and Early Childhood policy and advocacy.
  - We have sent over a dozen letters with local and statewide partners to support kids on issues related to: early intervention, infant and early childhood mental health, farm to school interventions, schools reopening, out of school time, and child care.
- *Meetings with Federal/State Elected officials:* Over the past six months, our team has had ongoing meetings with our federal and state delegation of elected officials. All meetings have been related to COVID-19 on: schools reopening, summer meals, emergency meal access, child care, out of school time, early intervention, and infant and early childhood mental health. Staff also worked with Gillibrand's office to host the Senator and Lt. Governor at Ibero for a press conference on the need for funding for child care in next stimulus package.
- *Ongoing meetings with city council and commissioners:* This quarter the team continued to have ongoing meetings with city council and commissioners related to our work plan. We appreciate that many of our city councilmembers will reach out directly to staff on issues related to whole child health, and work closely alongside us to achieve our goals.
- *Legislative tracking guide:* This quarter Jenn also built a guide for the team on how to track legislation continuously at both federal and state level. The platform (yet to be launched), will be embedded in the Healthi Kids website and will allow HK staff, Coalition members, and partners track pertinent legislation related to our advocacy agenda. Stay tuned in the New Year!



- **Getting the word out about our work across the state and country:**
  - *Our work has been featured in several national publications* over the past six months: [JSI article](#); [American Library Association Public Programs Office Blog](#), [Urban Land Institute Report](#), [Preventing Chronic Disease Publication](#), and [Goric blog](#)
  - *Across the State:* Staff continued to make strides in sharing our work and successes across the state. We have participated in guest lectures at SUNY Geneseo’s play and education class and at Buffalo State’s Community Health class on our work in schools; a podcast on Kids Thrive 585, a presentation to UofR pediatric residents on IECMH; a webinar for NYSPHA on how to remove barriers to physical activity; and a presentation for SUNY Cortland’s recreation conference.
  - *Meeting with national players:* Over the past six months our team has also been connecting with national partners to advance our advocacy agenda and spread the word about our work across the country. Meetings have occurred with: KABOOM!, Brookings Institute, National Recreation and Parks Association, Urban Land Institute, US Play Coalition, the APHA, the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health, and Zero to Three.
- **COVID-19 related work**
  - *FLX Reopening Schools Safely Task Force:* Common Ground Health/Healthi Kids began convening this Task Force in July to foster alignment across the region and provide support to schools and districts as they moved toward reopening. The Task Force has focused on sharing resources across the region through the creation of the Finger Lakes Schools Reopening Hub, developing communications for families and the public, and working with healthcare, public health and education professionals to develop guidance specific to our region. We have held 3 major forums with 300+ attendees from the healthcare and education sectors to share critical information and answer questions and successfully advocated for NYS to amend the guidance for school closure in micro-cluster zones.
  - *COVID-19 Response to Child Care:* Staff has also been supporting out of school time and child care providers as they look to reopen amongst new guidelines. Healthi Kids participates in the United Way’s Child Care Task Force and have been aiding the providers and additional community partners as they navigate between OCFS and DOH to provide solutions to current barriers to care. The work of the task force has developed a set of recommendations imbedded in the Finger Lakes Region Economic Development report; and collectively with our partners we have advocated for changes to our local state delegation, and the Governor’s office.
    - *Caregiver perceptions of child care during COVID:* This fall we partnered with United Way of Greater Rochester and Finger Lakes Community Schools to launch a pulse survey around childcare. The survey’s goal was to gain a better understanding directly from caregivers about their current childcare needs, and learn what resources/supports they need to support their families. We had 174 caregivers respond to the survey in Monroe and Wayne counties. We are in the process of analyzing that data and will share out the results in the New Year.
  - *Alignment of community resources around play and play based learning:* With the rapid demand increasing for things for “kids to do” during COVID-19, it became clear to Healthi Kids staff that we needed to align community resources for kids. Over the last six months, staff have spent time with Rochester Public Library, WXXI, City of Rochester, United Way, YMCA, The Strong Museum of Play, G2, the Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association, the Greater Rochester After School and



Summer Alliance and other partners coordinating efforts to support play-based learning for kids throughout the city. Staff also have been adding resident voice to these discussions to ensure programs and organizations are making decisions that fit the current needs of families.

- *Food Distribution for children during COVID-19:*
  - Healthi Kids has partnered with the City of Rochester, Rochester City School District and Foodlink throughout the pandemic to ensure that children who are currently not in school receive access to free meals through community distribution. This effort has included fostering collaboration among the partners and successfully advocating for the USDA to extend school meal flexibilities through the end of the current school year.
  - Summer Meals: Healthi Kids continued to provide staff support to convene the Summer Meals Partnership of Rochester. With the pandemic forcing most summer programs to “go remote” we worked with partners to build a delivery system that would meet the needs of families. As a result, the partnership offered three delivery models: fixed sites, mobile meals, and a food truck that “circled” neighborhoods in an “ice cream truck” fashion (run by Foodlink).

As always, if you would like more details or have questions on any of our work, please reach out!

Best,

Dina Faticone, Director