

## September 19, 2022 Education Panel Meeting Notes

We had a great update from Chara at the Cincinnati Preschool Promise (CPP) on how preschool operators are handling student mental health issues:

- Improving teacher mental health is the first step -- we need to help them put on their oxygen mask before they can do better for their students. Moreover, SEL work for students is solid -- there is no support for teachers.
- The CPP has built a network of support for its member with the help of Beech Acres.
- Black families in neighborhood or local preschools often resist their children being labeled as needing mental health support (this issue transcends race).
- The CPP goes beyond state testing standards by also testing preschoolers for mental health and SEL readiness.
- The pipeline of new preschool teachers is thin -- we need many more.
- HOW WE CAN HELP: e
  - Elevate the importance of ALL early childhood education (including "daycare") in the public conversation.
  - Alert Chara to resources that could benefit preschools and their teachers mental health (or generally just support them).
  - Volunteer to mentor preschool students.

The education awards are finally approved and planning is moving forward. Kent and Larry will lead the way, with technical and "just ask" support from me.

Upcoming meetings (all 4:30-6 p.m.; **ALL MEETINGS USE THE SAME ZOOM**

**LINK:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82856731000>

- Oct 17, Kim Haverkos and three of her Thomas More students will talk about their world view and mental health post-high school (hint: "nihilistic").
- Nov, Dec, Jan possibilities:
  - Doan HS principal to discuss his students mental health and how they are addressing it.
  - Tara Robinson and Dan Joyner to discuss how their restorative work in schools benefits mental health.
  - Leader-to-Leader volunteers to collectively discuss how their principals are handling student and teacher mental health issues.
- **Does anyone have any suggestions for speakers who could help us learn about student and teacher mental health?**