

March 3, 2021

The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on March 3, 2021 @ 12:16 p.m. on Webex Meeting

Present: Donna Osuch (Co-Chair), Azra Redzik (Co-Chair) Kristen Peck, Karen Lombardi, Pam Testa, Maureen Eaton, Cecilia Garay, Donna Koser, Catherine Plourde, Alyssa McGhee, Joyce Voisine ,Peter Kelley, Lauren Kittle ,Valerie Pelletier , Brenda Moore, Linda Rich, Valerie Toner

Absent: Susan Adeife Lee, Jennifer St. John

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL MEETING Minutes held on February 3, 2021 by a motion of School Readiness Council member Catherine Plourde and seconded, it was unanimous vote to: ***approve the minutes of the regular School Readiness Council meeting of February 3, 2021***

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Program Quality-** Maureen Eaton – next meeting March 9, 9:30 (Zoom)

Discussion- State Early Childhood Alliance group researching getting all CT Providers together to act as one to apply for health benefits for all staff.

CT Cares for All Children- now extending till June 30th- parents have to agree to one hour of engagement with a staff member .We have 21 children participating (20 families)

BOE surveying if parents would prefer School Day/School year spaces compared to part day part year space.

- **Health Committee-** Cathy Plourde next meeting April 6th @1:00 – (Zoom)

Wellness Wednesdays and Tasty Tuesdays now being implemented. Funds are coming from SRC and Dr. Brownstein's endowment from MSCF.

Community gardens- information from PWD and PRYC Department and Senior Center.

City looking to expand community gardens, to include Cambridge Park, JFK apartments- greenhouse.by 2025- Plots at Roberts Property- also using parking lot and connecting water-hook up. Referred Sarah Larson to UConn master gardening to assist the City with this initiative (through Dr, and Mrs. Bartles.)

Little Read- April- Week of the Young Child- -book **Rio & Silas with Love** written by Michele Kean. This will complement the new Story Walk to be erected at Rockwell Park being unveiled in June 2021.

- **Governance Committee-** Linda Rich – No Report
- **Community Outreach-** Donna Koser-

Handouts are being distributed with events like Tasty Tuesdays etc. Clear Mask distribution is scheduled for March 4, 2021- All Center-based, Family programs including B-3 providers can pick-up between 9-2 (funded by OEC)

- **Transition to Kindergarten Committee-** Donna Osuch Next meeting March 15,2021 3:45 (zoom)

Case Consultation Committee is rolling along

Ready 4K Program through the ParentPowered Public Benefit Corporation will be launched. We currently have 351 active enrollments, 2,482 messages sent. We have 20 phone numbers that are nonworking. We sent out a message “Time to Register for Kindergarten” to 229 PK4 children. An article in Bristol Press explained this new initiative.

‘Time to Register for Kindergarten’- online Registration started 2-2021- Please use the tag line your e-mails. Presently 32 students are registered- Early Notification information is being collected – An Article in Bristol Press explained the Process of registering using the online system. BBHD is working on PowerPoint to explain the second step of registration (medical aspect) Committee members suggested to have videos made for parents on how to use the technology that will be used by their children in the BOE (making sure it is done in Spanish too)

Dine and Discuss- April 21st-Invitations have been sent to Programs and schools that have Pre-K and Kindergarten staff. We are looking to serve 75 employees. We will need facilitators for the zoom breakout rooms.

- **Infant and Toddler Committee- - Chairperson Lauren Kittle -next meeting date April 5, 1:30 (zoom)**

Committee wants to do community wide project on Domestic violence- Sparkler is rolling out to community (own dashboard per program). Working with group on Resource Guide for Ready4K initiative

2. SCHOOL READINESS GRANT MANAGER REPORT

OEC

- **RFP- A motion was made for “The 3rd year of the SR Grant –to keep the same Programs and number of slots; BOE 149 Part Day/Part Year slots , BPCCC 124 Full Day/Full Year slots , IN-MEL 119 Full Day /Full Year. Motion was made by Maureen Eaton and seconded, motion approved**
- **Quality Enhancement Grant - a motion was made for the Quality Enhancement Grant to revert to the FY 2020 Vendors and amounts. Motion was made by Donna Koser and seconded, motion approved.**
- Coral Richardson and Maegan Adams thanked the collaborative partners and the School Readiness Council for assisting them this year with PPE funding. They indicated the vendors providing other vital services needed to be fully funded in the upcoming fiscal year.

Change in payment configuration for March 2021- full allocation will be given again. Starting in April it will be classrooms payment plus 25% operating costs.

CT Cares for All Children will be extended to June 30, 2021. Only 21 parents signed up for the extension

The OEC is indication they will be returning to slot reimbursement in July ending the classroom reimbursement now in use during the pandemic. The slot payment schedule is in Legislation.

Local Issues

3. QUALITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT

One last draw down from eGMS system to be done this week

4. MONITORING VISIT REPORT

Registry- Desk monitoring completed

BOE serving 109 Part Day/Part Year students

BPCCC serving 85 Full Day/Full Year students

IN-MEL serving 85 Full Day/full Year students

Discussion – SR Programs have openings- but be aware they are cognizant of number of children allowed in classrooms at this time- and the need to have “x” number of children to open new classroom

5. RESIGNATIONS

None

6. APPOINTMENTS

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:14 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary-Alice Petrucelli-Timek

School Readiness Grant Manager