



*All New Haven children, birth through 8 are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families
and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.*

Notes

Wednesday, July 1, 2015

1. Welcome and Announcements - Curtis Hill announced his retirement from CfAL and introduced his replacement, Karyn Stokes. Tannis Neal, Intern for Dr. Okafor, talked about a study that she is working on about the needs of African American and Latino families with young children with ADHD and autism. They are recruiting families for focus groups later in the month.
2. Opening activity for getting to know one another
3. Approval of June meeting notes – Sarah Fabish made a motion to approve the meeting notes; Christine Montgomery seconded it and it passed unanimously.
4. Updates
 - Legislative – The budget for the next two years includes funding in the OEC for Community Plans. There was a slight increase to the full day, full year SR rate. Birth to Three was officially moved to the OEC from DDS. There is funding in the budget for two generational programming in some cities; New Haven is one of them. Legislation passed that will require magnet schools to charge nonresidents tuition, up to \$4053 for PreK using the same sliding scale as SR.
 - Promise Zone – New Haven did not receive designation as a Promise Zone community but will reapply in the fall. It was in the second tier of submissions and will get some additional TA. Work continues to pull together the documents into one. A Community Expo will take place later in the month.
 - Financial Report – distributed; no questions.
5. Grants Committee Report
 - Sarah Fabish reviewed the SR Fee Workgroup report and recommendation for policy that was sent with the agenda. A change on page 1 was suggested to read “A copy of the signed... ”MUST” be given to the family” ... instead of “MAY”). Janet Alfano made a motion to accept the policy changes as distributed with the language change; Sandy Malmquist seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - A new policy for SR was distributed by the OEC to address new legislation that recently passed stating that SR Council can elect to allow out of city residents to use SR spaces. The development of a New Haven policy will be discussed at the monthly Grants Meeting tomorrow.
 - A new Ad hoc committee to look at barriers to SR and the possible need for financial assistance for families (to pay the fee) is meeting later this month. All are welcome to participate.
6. Council Membership and Leadership
 - Discussion & Action on Council Membership Guidelines – it was noted that the membership section of the document was updated to reflect the statutory requirements. Jennifer and



other members of the Operations Committee met with Dr. Okafor on June 29 and the process for Council membership was discussed. We can make suggestions for membership, but the Mayor's office will make final decisions.

Comments following the report of the meeting with Dr. Okafor included:

- A balance of Mayoral and Council selections for members would be optimal.
 - Bylaws are key to the process and procedures and the document that contains the guidelines will be the guidelines for Council bylaws.
 - While the NHECC currently operates at the SR Council, we are also a community collaborative and it would be helpful to be able to add a representative to the membership if it needed to accomplish our work.
- At last month's meeting about the Council Guidelines document there was a difference of opinion about the Council leadership that was not resolved. It is now clear that the Mayor, as the chief elected official, decides who the co-chairs will be. (Dr. Okafor is cognizant of the time commitment and duties of the co-chair. During the June 29 meeting there was conversation about the need for strong facilitation skills and no conflicts of interest.) Susan Logston made a motion to accept the guidelines as written. Christine Montgomery seconded it. Further discussion included historical information about the NHECC, that it started as a SR Council and several years later was broadened to be inclusive of children from 0 to age 8. It's this aspect of the NHECC work that opens the membership to a broader representation that the SR statute mandates. It was suggested that the SR aspect of the Council could be a subcommittee of the NHECC; some communities use that model. 10 Council members voted in favor of the motion to accept the guidelines as written; 3 members voted against. Four non-members also voted to accept the guidelines; two voted against. The motion passed. The issue of bylaws will be revisited in September.
 - Report from Ad Hoc group on Including parents – Magdalena Rosales-Alban reported that it was a good meeting with good discussion that included the topics below:
 - Where we can recruit parents
 - What do we really mean by parent involvement; what do we want parents to do; what are our expectations of parents; it is important that parents feel that they are making a contribution.
 - We need to look at our attitude as a Council and how we want to include parents in our work and the changes we will need to make to do so; we will need to develop relationships.
 - We will need to look at accommodations that parents might need (childcare, transportation, different meeting times, locations).
 - The majority of the time of the meeting was focused on relationships and attitudes. The conclusion at the end of the meeting was that as a Council, we are not ready and that more work needs to be done to include parents.

It was decided that a new committee will be formed to work on how the NHECC can become ready to involve parents and how to move forward and do so. Gail will send out a doodle poll; all are welcome to join. Those at the first meeting indicated that they wanted to continue to participate on this committee.

6. Review of the year September 2014 through June 2015 - Jennifer showed a power point presentation that was created to show all of the work the NHECC has done this year.

Next NHECC Meeting in September – enjoy your summer!