



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

Notes

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

1. Welcome and Announcements -Child First has a very small waiting list right now, which is unusual, making this a good time to make referrals.
2. Opening Activity
3. Children's Champions Awards - the CT Early Childhood Alliance recognized Representative Toni Walker, Senator Gary Winfield and Senator Martin Looney as Children's Champions for the 2015 legislative session. Executive Director Merrill Gay presented the awards.
4. Approval of July meeting notes – Kim Harris made a motion to approve the July meeting notes, Sue Logston seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.
5. School Readiness Update – Denise Duclos reported that there are 132 openings out of 1073 School Readiness spaces. There are historically a lot of openings at this time of year (in Headstart as well) due to kids leaving for various reasons including going to Kindergarten and getting spaces in Magnet schools.

Efforts to fill all of the spaces include using the lawn signs we had made last year. 50 signs have been put up around the city and there are more for people to take today to increase distribution. Tina Mannarino and Denise designed a brochure that describes the various early childhood care and education programs in New Haven, where they are located and where to go to enroll. This brochure has been widely distributed around the city. The PreK Access and Enrollment Committee funded the printing of the brochures. In addition, after today's meeting the list of School Readiness sites will be sent to all NHECC members to be distributed to families.

The PreK Access and Enrollment Committee meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month, at 10:30 at the United Way. Anyone interested in joining the committee should email Gail Ford and she will send you the agenda and past meeting notes.

6. Budget for 2015-2016 – Jennifer distributed a budget document and explained the two current sources of NHECC revenue (City of New Haven and Discovery) and reviewed the document. She also reported that a grant application has been submitted to the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven for a 3-year grant to support the Council's operations.

Jennifer also stated that the Operations Committee held two half-days facilitated sessions, in late July, to discuss the staffing needs of the Council. Gail, who is contracted to work only about 25 hours per week will be retiring on the first of November. The recommendation from the Operations Committee is to hire, as an employee, a full-time Director. This position will allow the Council to accomplish our work to get to our goal of All children, birth through 8 are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families and prepared to be successful lifelong learners. A draft job description was also distributed. She noted that as our work is more focused on systems and advocacy and not



projects, that committees seem to need less funding for their plans. This allows for more funding to be put towards staffing.

After some discussion, Sue Logston made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Christine Montgomery seconded the motion noting that the “work not planned should not be planned until we hear from the Community Foundation about the grant. The motion carried.

7. Council Membership– The names that have been submitted to the Operations Committee for Council membership are: Allyx Schiavone, Friends Center; Tirzah Kemp, Clifford Beers; Alison Wunder Stahl, All Our Kin; and Sadie Witherspoon, Cornell Hill Scott Health Center, Nurturing Family Network. There was discussion about how to include parents on the Council and it was reported that the ad hoc committee working on this will be reporting to the Council at the October meeting. Eliza Halsey made a motion to approve the slate, Elisabeth Teller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. These names will be submitted to the Mayors office for consideration.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2015