

Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative (TECC) Education Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on June 13, 2016. Meeting was Called to Order at 12:15p.m. by Tim Waldron, Mayor's Designee. Minutes from our last meeting were reviewed and approved as printed.

In Attendance: Elaine Hanscom/TECC, Donna Labbe/TECC & Torrington Public Schools (TPS), Kristen Fern/Forbes Kindergarten, Judy Courtot/EDUCATION CONNECTION, Sara Osborne/McCall Center, Charlene Lee/Brooker Memorial, Jan Sosnicki/Hilltop Early Learning Center, Debbie Collins/Future Foundations, Tim Waldron/Mayor's Designee, Deb Bristol/Family Resource Center, Susan Fergusson/TPS East School & Superintendent's Designee

Items Discussed:

Calendar for 2016-2017- Dates proposed for next school year are generally first Monday of each month unless a school holiday.

Budget-

- State budget passed with Community Plans line item intact. Current TECC funding for 2016-2107 through the Office of Early Childhood is approximately \$43K for plan implementation and early literacy efforts, which is half of the previous level of funding through Graustein Memorial Fund partnership.
- Even Start 2 generation learning grant and School Readiness grant remain at the same level of funding for 2016-2017.
- Received funding for one more Preschool Development Grant slot as well.

School Readiness (SR) Update-

- Statewide Early Childhood Information System is up and running to collect information on three and four year olds to track for funding over time.
- UCONN did a regression study on school readiness participants and found that these students are ahead in literacy and numeracy testing.
- All the quality enhancement funds were not used by the three applicants we awarded with scholarships to attend classes this year. A motion was made and passed, with one abstention, to offer these available funds of approximately \$500 out to the community for those taking summer classes, with a quick application process so funds can be awarded by June 30th.

Sustainability Update-

- TECC representatives met with the Community Foundation of NWCT regarding possible funding opportunities locally and will apply for additional grant funds.
- The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund has released a new request for proposal for a learning opportunity around their new mission of economic and racial equity in education, with funds to be awarded in the fall. TECC will submit a letter of interest.
- The TECC Steering Team is working on a strategy based budget ongoing, with the work efforts focused on advocacy and parent empowerment.

Birth to 8 Community Plan Implementation-

- Summer Learning Loss Activities Update- The community summer passport has been printed and distributed to all Kindergarten through fifth grade students at the end of the school year. Many organizations have agreed to come on board as community partners in this effort and more have expressed as interest and will be recruited as sponsors in order to fund future passports. There will be data collected at each participant site and school level prizes will be awarded to participants after school begins in September. This program will be an opportunity to promote TECC and to thank our community champions, as well as allow us to track the difference engaging in summer learning opportunities will have on student performance in the fall.
- Professional Development Update- A summary of survey results was reviewed and it was clear that two professional development topics were a priority in our community: executive functioning and dual language development. Updated results of the survey will be shared with the district staff in charge of professional development and the literacy and numeracy coaches at each school, as well as with the principals and early child care directors. A smaller group may form to work on a possible one day professional development training opportunity in the 2016-2017 school year, and to continue discussion on ways TECC can support existing training in our priority areas. Information was shared about how to access the CT Association for Human Services list serve that posts statewide professional development opportunities. A TECC Professional Development Google calendar is in the works and anyone working with children ages birth through third grade to will be invited to access and update with information about local professional development opportunities. EDUCATION CONNECTION is holding a workshop on Dual Language Learners at the end of August and there may be funding available through TECC to support those attending.
- Discussed the impact of the reduction in the income limit for the Care4Kids program as of July 1st will have on the families in our community and the need to continue to advocate for state funds through the CT Early Childhood Alliance and through personal stories shared with our legislators.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15p.m. Next Education Workgroup meeting scheduled for Sept 12, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Hanscom, TECC Secretary.