

Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative (TECC) Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held 12/17/10

Called to Order by Mary Cecchinato at 9:12a.m.

In Attendance: Mary Cecchinato, Heather Dinneen, Cindy Guerreri, Elaine Hanscom, Cheryl Kloczko, Donna Labbe, Karla Woodworth

Minutes for the November meeting were approved as printed.

Discussed:

Grants-

Discovery Grant: A Midterm Report was sent to the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund (WCGMF). TECC is up to 60 members now, with 5 active workgroups.

Regional Grant: We will continue to discuss how this \$2500 will be spent. Needs to be spent by 3-31-11 on parent leadership. We suggest enhancing the existing program under our Even Start grant since we are on a tight timeframe. We will convene a meeting with our community partners from Even Start, Family Resource Center and La Via Latina. We might be able to add a People Empowering People (PEP) component to the Even Start program. WCGMF has funds to do community conversations to bridge cultural barriers with non-English speaking parents. We need to be clear what our goal is when we have these conversations. We can contact other communities to see what has worked there.

Event Start Grant: This program is running currently with 5 parents, potential of 3 more joining in January. They are making community connections for participants in the program.

CT Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC) School-Family-Community Partnership Grant: There is a district team that has been put together to create a parent engagement plan for all Torrington schools. This is a 3 year grant.

Committee Updates-

Parent: Several parents are working on the school-family-community partnership grant program. Still waiting for data from the sustainability workgroup to use in our PR effort.

Sustainability: We are investigating Results Based Accountability Report Scorecard software to report data out to the community. Cost data for the software was given to steering committee members. Cost will go down significantly if more Discovery communities purchase the software. We would need to build this cost into our annual budget. A parent resource guide is in Excel format now and Heather is working on setting it up in a web based format so that we can search on multiple fields.

Child Growth and Development: Has been helping with the Superintendent of Schools' Birth to Graduation project. Brooker Memorial, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, and Friends of Torrington Public Schools are all contributing partners. Winsted is trying to establish a home visitors coalition in the community. Parents as Teachers program is available, but is expensive to train teachers. We also have 3 trained Conscious Discipline teachers available to us: Anne Giordano, Tracy Morales Gabelman and Pam Dzurilla.

Education: Working on the Kindergarten Readiness Fair to be held at Torrington School on March 12, 2011 and updating the current action plan.

Current Budget-

Approximately \$5K remains to be used by 3-31-11. Donna will price out a new computer and netbook for staff use. In order to pursue future 501(c)3 status as an organization, we have applied for Technical Assistance from WCGMF for a process facilitator to help with creating an Operations & Policy manual.

Next meeting scheduled for January 21st.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00a.m.

Submitted by Elaine Hanscom