

Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative

Steering Committee Minutes

September 21, 2012

Present: Michelle Anderson, Mary Cecchinato, Donna Farr, Anne Giordano, Cindy Guerreri, Elaine Hanscom, Cheryl Kloczko, Donna Labbe, Cheryl Petersen

Meeting called to order at 9:15 a.m.

Items Discussed:

Donna Labbe presented a summary of notes from a Freedom of Information Act meeting attended by Rick DellaValle on 9-11-12 that highlights how TECC records of meetings must be kept. Copies of our current by-laws were also distributed for committee member review.

Workgroup Updates: Workgroup Chairs updated the group on their activities.

- **Parent:** Cheryl Petersen & Karla Woodworth will be wrapping up their action research project by December 2012. They will be presenting at the Stone Soup conference in October.
- **Sustainability:** Heather Dineen will take the lead role in applying for 501 c 3 nonprofit status. Discussed the status of our grants- We received a \$50K SDE Project Improvement grant to help our Even Start program with Adult Education. We also received a \$20K Newman's Own Return on Investment Grant to work with an economist to collect data from our Even Start program. CVS \$18K of the \$30K grant award for children with disabilities will be used to provide music therapy and supports to preschool aged children starting in October. All-America City Award- No funds awarded. We received our peer review summary and there are ongoing technical support webinars available. Community Foundation of NW CT- \$1250 matching grant was used to update our website. Graustein Memorial Fund- \$40K currently. Torrington Public Schools hired Donna Labbe and TECC is no longer using redeployed staff to meet grant requirements for community funding. Also received \$50K from GMF for Early Literacy Partnership.
- **Child Growth & Development:** Current co-chairs are Anne Giordano and Janae Paluso. Home Visiting Forum scheduled by Dept of Public Health for 9-27-12 to discuss federal funds received to target maternal and infant health in Torrington/Winsted by using a new parent as teachers program.
- **Education:** The Kindergarten Readiness Fair is scheduled for January 12, 2013 (snow date January 26) and will include dental and vision screenings. School Readiness- We have applied for \$4K in Quality Enhancement funds to help teachers go to school for certifications. We have 15 new school readiness slots in Torrington. The new Forbes Family Literacy Center Grand Opening will be October 23, 2012.

Cindy Guerreri asked if we have identified our platform for legislative action. Reported that the state has a data portal now, but is still compiling data.

Our next All TECC Meeting is scheduled to be held on October 18, 2012. It will be a community conversation asking how we can improve school, community & family partnerships.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Submitted by Elaine Hanscom, TECC Secretary

Next meeting is October 19, 2012