

Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative (TECC) Education Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on January 13, 2014.

Called to Order at 12:18pm by Mary Cecchinato. Minutes from last meeting were approved as printed.

In Attendance: Elaine Hanscom/TECC, Lucille Fines/Torrington Public Schools (TPS), Eileen Smedick/TPS, Paula Gajewski/TPS, Mary Cecchinato/Torrington Child Care Center, Patrice Nelson/CT Center for School Change, Deb Thompson/Family Resource Center, Donna Labbe/TECC & TPS, Claudia Ocasio/Even Start, Cindy Guerreri/ William Caspar Graustein Memorial Foundation (WCGMF), Charlene Lee/Brooker Memorial, Carmella Galipault/HeadStart, Paula Romanelli/HeadStart, Susan Fergusson/TPS, Debbie Collins/Future Foundations, Valerie Chivinski/Hilltop Christian Nursery School

Items Discussed:

SCHOOL READINESS(SR) STATE GRANT- Notes from SR Liaison ShawnMarie Dumond- CT did not receive Race to the Top federal funds. CT scored poorly on commitment to retaining and maintaining staff.

Legislative language has been changed to streamline by combining day care and school readiness both priority and competitive.

CT Charts-A- Course is up and running.

There will be one application for all SR Quality Enhancement grants.

Site question came up regarding reduction in fees for family undergoing hardship, new guidelines coming from the state.

MEMBERSHIP- WorkGroup Roster passed out for review & updates.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS FAIR DEBRIEF- Decent #s despite the weather, 70 packets handed out, 23 new students identified. Less Hispanic families in attendance, need to have bus transportation from Woodland Hills apartments, need more publicity, timing right after holidays bad, some families think not for them if their child is not attending that school (venue), some out of town parents attended as well, some parents took packets for friends, routing to readers needs to be better, questions by parents about school choice came up.

All registration packets are online now on the school district web site.

3 TO 3 INSTITUTE Acquisition of Literacy Skills Grant Info- Patrice Nelson Presented to Group

State 3 to 3 Institute Goals:

- 1) Increase alignment across community & school district early childhood programs
- 2) Improve effective instructional practice, instructional coherence and meaningful learning in community and school district programs, prek to grade 3

3) Build capacity and sustainability by creating partnerships between school district and community to develop common language and goals, prek to grade 3

4) Assist in leveraging resources to build continuum of high quality early learning environments.

Outcomes 2012-2013:

1) Leadership Team Formed

2) Self-assessment Done using national framework document

3) Developed time-framed plan with achievable outcomes

4) Participated in 3 Institute gatherings

For 2013-2014:

1) 4 Institute gatherings

2) Work the plan

Today: Review TECC Birth to 8 Plan

Questions: Where specifically do you see Torrington's 3 to 3 plan and 3 to 3 Institute goals?

What are the implications for the Education WorkGroup going forward? (need to know, need to do)

What is your next step (this month)?

Do we have a shared understanding of what the workgroup is working on? We have two working documents- Birth to 8 Plan and Implementation Plan. There is confusion between these two documents, and these documents still need action tasks assigned.

An Acquisition of Literacy Skills subcommittee including 2nd and 3rd grade teachers has been formed to work specifically on 3 to 3 goals.

Data Dashboards with relevant data are being created for each workgroup.

Meeting adjourned at 2:09pm. Next meeting scheduled for 2-10-14.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Hanscom, TECC Secretary