

Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative (TECC) Education Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on May 12, 2014.

Called to Order at 12:12p.m. by Cheryl Kloczko, Workgroup Co-Chair. Minutes from our last meeting were reviewed and approved as printed.

In Attendance: Elaine Hanscom/TECC, Mary Cecchinato/Torrington Child Care Center, Donna Labbe/TECC & Torrington Public Schools (TPS), Cindy Guerreri/ William Caspar Graustein Memorial Foundation (WCGMF), Cheryl Kloczko/TPS, Paula Gajewski/TPS, Charlene Lee/Brooker Memorial, Lucille Fines/Vogel Wetmore School, Elinor Carbone/City of Torrington, Debbie Collins/Future Foundations, Teresa Allen/Girl Scouts of CT, Eileen Smedick/Vogel Wetmore School, Patrice Nelson/CT Center for School Change

Items Discussed:

State Update- Office of Early Childhood passed State Legislature. State budget includes rate increases for competitive school districts, including Torrington, and funding for an additional 1,020 school readiness slots statewide.

School Readiness (SR)- Hilltop Christian Nursery School received NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation and Kindercare renewed their accreditation recently. Our grant application for SR slots for next fiscal year is due to the state by the end of May. Our budget includes 13 slots due to the rate increase, so 2 slots have been added to our request for expansion slots. Two sites have responded to our Request for Proposal for new slots for fiscal year July 2014 to June 2015 and their applications have been reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve our reviewers' recommendation to move Hilltop's application for new slots forward to the state. The motion passed with 2 abstentions. A motion was made and seconded to approve our reviewers' recommendation on site B based on the site's response to our request for additional information by 5-16-14. The motion passed with 2 abstentions.

Birth to 8 Pre-K/School Readiness Implementation Plan- Worked on fleshing out activities and tasks in our plan document related to Action D Raise community awareness on "School Readiness is Everyone's Business" under Strategy 1 Continuously engage families so they are empowered to be actively involved as full partners in helping children develop, learn and achieve.

Emergency Calls to Preschool Sites- Informed members that the superintendent of schools is not responsible for notifying all early childhood sites in case of emergencies. Contact information for all sites has been shared with emergency personnel for their follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00p.m.

Next Education Workgroup meeting scheduled for 6-9-14.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Hanscom, TECC Secretary.