

Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative (TECC) Education Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on October 20, 2014.

Called to Order at 12:05p.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), Cheryl Kloczko/TPS, Paula Gajewski/TPS, Charlene Lee/Brooker Memorial, Lucille Fines/Vogel Wetmore School, Elinor Carbone/City of Torrington, Eileen Smedick/Vogel Wetmore School, Carmella Galipault/Head Start, Deb Bristol/Family Resource Center, Judy Courtot/EDUCATION CONNECTION, Sue Fergusson/East School, Kristen Cellerino/East School, Jan Sosnicki/Hilltop Christian Nursery School, Teresa Allen/Girls Scouts of CT, Matt Tynan/Kidsplay; Kaitlin Marchand/Torrington Public School, Cindy Guerreri, GMF

Special Presentation: Matt Tynan, Executive Director of Kids Play Museum in Torrington, a TECC community partner, presented information about the museum's operations and availability of space for community functions. TECC could hold an All-TECC meeting there and Torrington Public Schools could hold professional development activities there. Many teachers have participated in field trips there for students.

Items Discussed:

School Readiness (SR) Updates- Sites were asked to provide preliminary data for a School Readiness Outcome Research Project (selected centers will be chosen Winter 2015). An online portfolio is available for those sites undergoing National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation, however providers have indicated that it is expensive and time consuming. Information was given on Staff Requirements for Charters a Course Registry. Early childhood teacher credentials are being entered into the database, but the turnaround time has been slow. Connecticut Dept. of Education is applying for new federal funds for 12 communities to increase the number of SR slots for 4 year olds, and Torrington will hear in December 2014 if these funds will be received.

*Birth to 8 Implementation Plan-*Those present broke into two small groups to work on the following items: Prioritizing actions in the Kindergarten to 3rd Grade Learning strategic area of our plan & reviewing the kindergarten registration survey results. The survey responses were overwhelmingly positive. The highest priority action for the Kindergarten to 3rd Grade Learning area was determined to be to coordinate summer learning programs to reduce summer learning loss. A discussion followed about how learning loss is measured and the timing and location of kindergarten screenings & inventories.

Community Partners- Paula Gajewski from Community Family Learning Center presented possible professional development topics and dates in order to gauge interest of group members and determine possible barriers. The CT Early Childhood Alliance has asked representatives from 14 community collaboratives to a meeting to discuss sustainability of collaboratives and Mary Cecchinato will be attending for TECC.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08p.m. Next Education Workgroup meeting scheduled for 11-10-14.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Hanscom, TECC Secretary.