

Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative (TECC) Education Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on May 11, 2015. Meeting Called to Order at 12:02p.m. by Cheryl Kloczko, Workgroup Co-Chair. Minutes from our last meeting were reviewed and approved as printed.

In Attendance: Elaine Hanscom/TECC, Donna Labbe/TECC & Torrington Public Schools (TPS), Cheryl Kloczko/TPS, Carmella Galipault/Head Start, Judy Courtot/EDUCATION CONNECTION, Cindy Guerreri/William Casper Graustein Memorial Foundation (WCGMF), Patrice Nelson, CT Center for School Change, Dawn Markelon/Torrington School, Mary Cecchinato/Torrington Child Care Center, Lucille Fines/Vogel-Wetmore School, Cindy Marchell/Forbes, Elizabeth Rhoades/Early Childhood Consultation Partnership McCall Foundation, Paula Gajewski/Community Family Learning Center, Morgan Osborn/Fit Together NWCT, Kristen Cellerino/East school, Deb Bristol/Family Resource Center

Items Discussed:

Fit Together Northwest CT-

- Update on Fit Together efforts given by guest Morgan Osborn. They are looking for ideas to do community trainings on health and wellness topics such as clean eating to children, school staff and early childhood centers staff. Members indicated they would be interested in presentations made in the school facilities and gave suggestions for topics.

School Readiness (SR) Updates-

- SR funds- The grant application has been submitted for next year, to include \$300,225 with 3 sites in operation & \$3790 in quality enhancement funds for scholarships.
- Update on Federal Preschool Expansion Grant for new slots for children turning 4 years old by January 1, 2016, to be up and running in September 2015- East School will be the site for these slots.
Discussion today centered around the criteria for families to be served with these slots and the differences between the ongoing grant and this new grant.
A recruitment flyer was presented to the group and plans for distribution were discussed. A suggestion was made to do some community information sessions on the new grant program, maybe using our community messengers to facilitate.

Birth to 8 Community Plan Implementation-

- Summer Learning Loss Follow Up- Today the group discussed possible actions based on the items detailed over the last few meetings in our summer learning loss activities spreadsheet. These actions were identified:
 1. Analyze the data we already have
 2. Gather more data regarding numbers of individuals participating in these community activities, and what is working or not working in these activities
 3. Educate parents regarding the importance of summer learning
 4. Determine how to reach families and students so they invest in summer learning

Paula Gajewski has created a resource guide for summer activities that can be distributed by the CFLC (would pertain to action #3). Guide distributed to group for comments and/or edits. Discussed adding an informational component to the guide and a parent survey to gather whether the use of the guide changed parents' behavior over the summer. A small ad hoc group agreed to meet to finalize the guide so that it can be distributed at end of year activities in the school system. It will also be distributed within the community.

- Governor's Budget Update-
The Community Plans line item has been added back to the budget by the Appropriations Committee with a 5% decrease in dollar amount, which is the same amount Discovery communities received this fiscal year. Legislative session scheduled to end June 3rd.

Meeting adjourned at 2:02p.m. Next Education Workgroup meeting scheduled for June 8, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Hanscom, TECC Secretary.