

Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative (TECC) Education Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on December 14, 2015. Meeting Called to Order at 12:10p.m. by Mary Cecchinato, TECC Co Chair. Minutes from our last meeting were reviewed and approved as printed, with one abstention.

In Attendance: Elaine Hanscom/TECC, Donna Labbe/TECC & Torrington Public Schools (TPS), Paula Gajewski/Community Family Learning Center, Deb Bristol/Family Resource Center, Kristen Fern/Forbes, Carmella Galipault/Head Start, Cindy Marchell/Forbes Grade 3, Mary Cecchinato/Torrington Child Care Center, Cindy Guerreri/GMF Liaison, Judy Courtat/EDUCATION CONNECTION, Dawn Markelon/Torrington, Sara Osborne/McCall Foundation, Tim Waldron/Mayor's Designee, Sue Fergusson/East & Superintendent's Designee, Drs. Susan & David Carroll/Words and Numbers

Introductions were given and new Mayor and Superintendent Designees were announced.

Items Discussed:

School Readiness (SR) Update-

- There were 3 applicants for Quality Enhancement Scholarship Funds for spring 2016 early education classes. Applications are currently being reviewed by an ad-hoc small group.

Event-

- The Kindergarten Readiness Fair will be moved to March since the school calendar needs to be revised by the Board of Ed. New date is March 5th, with snow date of March 12th. Kindergarten registration will be March 14-18 & March 21-24.

Funding-

- Even Start families (10 ELL families + 5 High School students are served by the grant) were at the capitol to advocate for continued funding and funding for this program remains in the state budget.
- The state budget has proposed funding cuts for School Readiness and the community plans line items. TECC will need to continue to advocate for state funding.
- The feds have confirmed they will continue to fund Preschool Development Grant for 3 years. There are currently 4 sites with full day preschool with supports and wrap around services.

Birth to 8 Community Plan Implementation-

- Strategy III: Assure aligned high quality professional development for anyone working with children is the Education Work Groups's focus for this fiscal year. Drs. Susan and David Carroll from Words and Numbers were present to ask detailed questions about proposed survey questions for child care professionals and teachers, to determine professional development needs and current offerings.
- Also determined need preface to the questionnaire, with announcement by principals and directors.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08p.m.

Next Education Workgroup meeting scheduled for January 11, 2016. Items for next meeting agenda: How to get survey out to community, deadlines, translation to Spanish

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Hanscom, TECC Secretary.