*All New Haven children, birth through 8 are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families*

*and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.*

**Wednesday, May 5, 2014 Meeting Notes**

* Announcements – Jennifer Heath and Cyd Oppenheimer, co-chairs, met with Mayor Toni Harp, NHPS Superintendent Garth Harries and Executive Director of Schools, Damaris Rau on April 30. The NHECC’s work and Early Childhood in general were discussed. It was a positive meeting. Appreciation was expressed for the new, improved data collection with regard to Pre K experience and those children that did not have a PreK experience that began this year. The complexities of the PreK system were also discussed. Garth seems interested, as is the Council, on how to streamline the various PreK registration processes. Garth also expressed an interest in Infants and Toddlers. Jennifer suggested that we try to build on that interest.

Jennifer also announced that the Federal Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant Opportunity RFP would be released later in May, and we should be thinking about how we might have a role in encouraging collaborative work in this area.

Denise and Sandy attended the Board of Alders Finance Committee meeting on May 1 and were asked to attend a second meeting on May 12. They are meeting with Ron Manning and Jennifer on May 9 to prepare.

* Approval of April 2, 2014 meeting notes - a motion was made by Bob Windom, seconded by Galit Sharma and carried unanimously.
* Legislative Report – Cyd reported that the Office of Early Childhood legislation passed and the OEC is now formally created. The School Readiness rates for full day/full year slots were raised 3.8 % to $8670 and the Smart Start legislation passed. The session ends tonight at midnight.
* Council Financial Report – no questions were raised.
* Community Assessment – Stanley Bernard facilitated the discussion and completion of the form for the Graustein Discovery Application. (A copy of the completed document is attached.)
* Grants and Development Report and Recommendations for School Readiness slots for 2014-2015 – The Council members and guests that work with the School Readiness program were excused from this portion of the meeting. Janet Alfano reviewed the document prepared by Denise Duclos and distributed to those in attendance. She reported that 24 Council members or committee members reviewed 21 applications. The programs that received SR funds and slots last year will continue to receive funds in the coming year. The number of spaces for this year is 1070. NHPS is closing 48 full day spaces and are adding a school day classroom. The requests for expansion, noted on the document, will add an additional 18 spaces for a total of 1088. It was suggested that the document presented be amended to show that 4 of the new slots requested by St. Aiden’s and 4 of the new slots requested by Friends be noted as expansion slots. This will allow them to receive some start up dollars for their classrooms.

Denise reported that a new Center, Creative ME, will be receiving 10 Full Day, Full Year slots this year. Sarah and Denise did a site visit. Mechelle, the owner has Infants and Toddlers in addition to PreK. The owner will need a lot of support and help with quality. Her Infant/Toddler staff do not have degrees, she has a PreK teacher in the morning and Mechelle, the owner will work in the PM. Mechelle is going to school pursuing her BA. She will be serving very low-income kids, with a lot of competition from other free programs in the area where she is located. It will likely be challenging for her to fill all ten spaces. Denise stated that we will try Creative Me this year, and spell out for Mechelle the conditions she needs to meet.

A motion was made by Bob Windom /seconded by Cyd to accept the entire package as recommended by Denise with the amendment that 4 expansion spaces would go to St. Aiden and 4 expansion spaces to Friends Center. Motion carried unanimously.

* New Business – Jennifer announced that it is time for the Council to identify new members. The process is to compile a list of people (talk to them to be certain that they are interested in serving) and present the slate to the Council. Once approved that slate will be recommended to the Mayor and Superintendent. The appointment letter will be sent to the new members from the Mayor. This slate should be approved at the June or July meeting, with new members starting in September. The term for serving on the Council has been 3 years. Gail will send out a reminder email and names can be sent to her.