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

*and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.*

**Meeting Notes**

**September 3, 2014**

* Welcome and Announcements
* Approval of July meeting notes – Janet Alfano made a motion to approve the July meeting notes; Bob Windom seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.
* Ice breaker – to get to know one another
* Council documents
  + Council Member Job Description – A correction to the day of the meeting will be made; the meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of the month, not the 3rd . The date of the revision will be added to the document as well.
  + Council Commission document -There were no substantive changes for the Council Commission document; the number of members will be changed to reflect the number in the proposed bylaws (30 to 40).
  + Proposed Bylaws – Jennifer explained that the draft that was distributed is a first attempt and was created from examples of other Discovery communities and School Readiness Councils. The draft was reviewed and discussed and several changes were suggested. A new draft will be available at the October meeting.
  + Conflict of Interest Form – Once official appointments have been made, members will be asked to sign this annually. There was discussion about what constitutes a conflict of interest and eligibility to vote. It was noted that a conflict of interest does not preclude membership on the NHECC, as is true with nonprofit organizations.
* School Readiness Report
  + Update about providers/slots provided by Denise (hard copy distributed). There was discussion about what might be done so there are no School Readiness (SR) openings. Damaris Rau noted that some openings are created by children that are signed up for SR slots but end up with Magnet slots (that are free for families). She suggested that the parents of the children on the Magnet Schools’ waiting lists could be called about open SR slots.

Cyd stated that better data about children entering Kindergarten who did not have a PreK experience, and why not, could better inform us as a SR Council. Damaris reported that some of the children that do not have a PreK experience when they enter Kindergarten are coming from other places, such as NYC.

It was also suggested that staff at child-serving organizations have packets of information and training about how to connect families with PreK for their children. A number of younger parents do not know that free PreK is available in New Haven. The discussion focused on the complexity of accessing PreK programs and how hard it is for parents to know and understand the availability of PreK for their kids. It was agreed that the system is very complicated and a centralized registration process is needed.

* + Quality Enhancement Report for FY 2014, also provided by Denise (distributed)