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

*and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.*

**Meeting Notes Wednesday, February 19, 2014**

**Teach for America**

1. Welcome and Announcements
2. Approval of January 8, 2014 meeting notes - A motion was made by Sarah Fabish, seconded by Bob Windom to approve the notes; motion carried unanimously.
3. Council Financial Report – included in the packet, no questions.
4. Advocacy

* Legislative Report – Cyd Oppenheimer reported that the Governor issued his proposed budget changes for the second year of the biennium. He included 1020 new School Readiness slots (approximately half of these for priority school districts) and a 3% increase for SR; a 3% increase in rates for Care4Kids,and 3% increase for Center based care. Discussion followed about how difficult it is for families to understand how to access a School Readiness slot and space in Headstart program. The system for PreK enrollment needs to be streamlined.
* Follow up from last month - the discussion with Roland LeMar was a robust one, and he was very responsive to an email about how the administrative fee for the School Readiness grant is too low. It was suggested that we invite the local legislators to the WOYC events.

1. Committee Reports

* Quality Experience – Sandy Malmquist passed out a draft calendar of events for the WOYC and a spreadsheet that shows the books/events and outreach sites, with an estimate of the number of books she plans to order.
* PreK-3 – Jennifer Heath reported that the Committee sponsored a second Professional Development for NHPS teachers and community providers. Participants learned more about the Common Core and worked together in teams to create activities. The Transition subcommittee has created a brochure with family friendly tips for parents of children who are entering Kindergarten. The NHPS is printing the brochure.
* Program Access and Family Engagement - Evelyn Flamm reported that the Committee is focusing on harder to reach families and what they need. The Committee is working on a document and packet (Kid Kit) with a checklist of items needed to register children for PreK and Kindergarten. Information about resources will be included in the packet. They want to use a plastic envelope for the kid and train staff that work with families to help parents use this tool. The same information will be put into sheet protectors to be distributed during the WOYC. They also hope to work with the FRCs. Bob Windom suggested that we present the Kid Kit to YNHH to hand out when babies are born (after it is determined that this item is effective). Eliza Halsey suggested that the Committee check with Sue Weisselberg about what the NHPS puts out regarding this information and what they think is important.

1. Grants and Development Committee – There are two action items that require Council vote. Denise Duclos handed out a document that showed the currently open slots and how slots might be re-allocated, if needed, to programs that can fill them. The Grant Committee recommends that providers have a contract in hand to fill open slots by March 4. Any open spaces at that time (there are currently 4) will be reallocated per the chart (2 to YNHH and 2 to LULAC). A motion was made to accept this recommendation by Bob Windom, seconded by Cyd Openheimer. The motion carried unanimously. A second motion was made by Kirsten Levinsohn, seconded by Ron Manning to fill unfilled spaces per the outline in the document by following the pattern if there were more than 4 unfilled spaces. This motion carried unanimously as well.

The Grants Committee recommended the criteria below for the coming year’s applications:

**CURRENT SR Programs**

* The program is Full Day/Full Year (SR FD/FY)

*Cmte acknowledges that in some areas where the economy has not recovered, parents are still not working or are underemployed. The committee believes that holding onto FD/FY spaces in these areas is important for parents who will see full employment when the economy recovers.*

* The program has a history of serving low-income families and can document its outreach to this population
* The program has the ability to maintain full enrollment
* The program is NAEYC accredited
* The program meets the 2015 teacher education requirements: 50% of teachers with a BA in early childhood education or. BA in other field with 12 EC credits
* The program’s classrooms’ Learning Experience Plans (LEP) show an improvement over time
* The program demonstrates its commitment to family-school partnerships by documenting its adherence to the SR Parent Involvement Quality Component

**NEW PROGRAMS**

* New programs have the staff, board and a plan that demonstrates they can: open on schedule, recruit families and have the early childhood expertise to provide a quality program
* New programs are full day, full year
* New programs are located in an under-served community or will serve an unmet need

It should be noted that the criteria will be used if we have more applications than spaces and that the criteria are not rated, they are guiding criteria. A motion to accept the criteria was made by Cyd Oppenheimer and seconded by Jessica Sager and it passed unanimously.

Denise reported that the QE grant will be folded into the SR grant, but that it would have a separate budget.

1. New Business- Cyd reported that an ad hoc committee will be formed to engage an individual to add content to and complete the NHECC site. Volunteers for this committee should contact Gail Ford.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 3:00**