*All New Haven children, birth through 8 are healthy, safe, thriving in
nurturing families and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.*

**NHECC Council Meeting Minutes**

December 7, 2016

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

United Way of Greater New Haven

**Council Membership Slate** was approved by a majority vote with the below amendments and corrections. Jayne explained that her vote against the membership slate is in regards to her view that parents on the New Haven Childhood Council should be New Haven residents. Parents who reside in other towns, should become members of their local Councils.

Amendments/Corrections:

* Add Michelle Baker from Children’s Community Programs
* Correct the spelling of Galit Sharma’s name
* Correct Glady’s Last name to Deutsch
* Correct Geselle Institute spelling

**School Readiness Expulsion Policy**

Sarah presented the policy for review and approval. She noted that OEC is requiring the formalization of an informal process that the Council has already been using the past. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all options are explored prior to a child being expelled from a program. The Grants Committee worked diligently with other Council members, providers, and parents --- to ensure that the policies outlined in the document meet the intended goal.

The policy was approved by all voting members present at the meeting.

**Updates on Budget**

The Operations Committee is still working to review each committee’s requests and make budget adjustments based on change in funds allocation from the City of New Haven. The Council had anticipated receiving a total of $57,000 for Council infrastructure and initiatives. Once the Council submitted its request to the City of New Haven Community Services Administration, the Director was notified that an total allocation for Council infrastructure and initiatives would be $27,000 and $30,000 would be utilized for City of New Haven projects. The Operations Committee needs to meet and review the budget to discuss this adjustment. An updated budget will be provided during the January meeting for approval.

**Care4Kids Update**

Due to recent announcements from the Office of Early Childhood, the Council will explore ways in which it can influence policy around the larger issue of infrastructure and funding for childcare. Going forward the Council seeks to develop a unified voice amongst providers, programs and parents. To achieve this goal, the Council will convene a community conversation on the early care. An invitation will be extended beyond the Council membership and will included policy specialists from the CT Voices for Children.

Care 4 Kids announced that they will close the program to all priority groups except those currently receiving TANF benefits and those with active cases with the Department of Children and Families. This closure will leave over 2,000 families on a waitlist for an undetermined amount of time. This action will address a portion of the deficit and the OEC plans to use unallocated School Readiness funds to address the remaining portion.

Materials from the presentation All Our Kin delivered at the Care 4 Kids forum will be sent to Council members along with the link to the recorded hearing.

**Birth to Three**

Elizabeth shared that since Birth to Three is an entitlement program that cannot have waiting lists, the primary focus of advocacy efforts is to ensure that the program remains as viable and significant as it is today. They want to ensure that children who need the program in the future, have the same access, in terms of quality, that children experience today. The budget deficit (8 million) has been addressed with some minor cuts to reimbursement rates (1%). As new information develops, Elizabeth will keep the Council informed.

**Updates and Announcements**

Early Childhood Resource Center

Sandy provided a one sheet report with graphs which highlighted the following;

* ECRC met goal of 100 teachers
* The have 20 out of the 50 provider goal they set
* The email list is expanding in large numbers
* Averaging 32 attendees per session (goal was 25)
* They hold a preview of resources at the end of each workshop.
* Curriculum boxes are very popular.
* They are duplicating the ones that have the most demand.
* 100% of borrowed materials are returned.
* They are using Surveygizmo to get feedback on the ways the techniques from the workshops are implemented in the classroom. They have a response rate of ⅓.

For the upcoming year, Sandy would like to know which members of the Council would be interested in presenting a workshop.

**Friends Center -**

Allyx was congratulated on receiving the the Marvin Maurer Award from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. To read more about Allyx’s work at Friends Center, view the full story on their website at <http://www.friendscenterforchildren.org/>

**School Readiness Slot Transfer**

A recommendation from the Grants Committee was made to transfer unfilled slots to the following programs.

Morning Glory (8)

St. Andrews (2)

St. Francis (3)

Bodel(5)

Any remaining unused slots at the end of December will be reviewed at the January Council Meeting.

The slot transfer proposal was approved by all voting members present.