



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

SCHOOL READINESS AND NEW HAVEN EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
January 16 Meeting Notes

SCHOOL READINESS BUSINESS

Co-Chairs' report

Dr Killins Stewart offered a summary of the co-chairs' November 9th meeting with OEC. Changing the NHECC meeting format to focus the first portion of the meeting on School Readiness issues will help the Council meet the OEC expectation that School Readiness is regularly addressed by the Council. It will also make discussions and decisions about school readiness more transparent. To help clarify the differences/similarities between the SRC and NHECC that were discussed at the last council meeting, the co-chairs sent out a memo to all council members and friends. Dr Stewart emphasized the membership of the SRC and the NHECC are the same.

Presentations by Quality Enhancement Grant contractors

Education consultants Liz Parmelee and Beth Young presentation: described the work they do (see power point) as assessing the programs compliance with child assessments, curriculum, NAEYC, licensing. This is part of helping to define the work they will do with centers. The work is also defined by the needs identified by the directors and teachers. They delineated the differences in consultation and coaching and how they offer each. Currently they are facilitating a DOTS workshop/on-site coaching series. Participants will do pre- and post-assessments.

How do you know if programs are better off? Liz provided an example. SR provider Glory Smith described how the consultants have helped her program.

Mental Health Consultant, Betsy Perry from Clifford Beers described the referral process: gathering info from parents, teachers and her classroom observations; discussing the presenting problem, the child's strengths and challenges; giving strategies for home and school; asking parents/teachers to select 2 strategies to work on; and, returning to program to talk with parents and teachers about results. Child/ family may be referred to other resources. She finds that sleep is often part of the problem.

Discussion: Dr. Kimber would like to hire a bi-lingual person. T. Kemp asked how consultants address the needs and/or support providers in meeting the needs of families with diverse backgrounds.

FY20 School Readiness and Quality Enhancement Grants-local process and focus

School Readiness Grant:

The FY20 local RFP from OEC will be the longer version for SR applicants to complete. The template has not been released but based on previous years, will include questions on policies and practices related to families and program operation. The Grant Committee therefore recommended that there be no additional questions from the NHECC, but that we continue past practice of having Council members and friends conduct site visits in addition to reading grant applications. The focus of the site visits was discussed and questions generated.

Ideas generated are categorized below into the 3 focus areas of the Council: Access, Quality, and Family Engagement. See below.

NEXT STEPS:

Any additional questions/suggestions should be emailed to Denise Duclos denised@nhboe.net.

Denise will develop a rubric for rating the responses once questions are finalized. Rubric will be submitted to Council for approval.

ACCESS-COMMUNITY

What community resources has the program utilized to:

- Promote the program and reach out to new families? Give examples

- Support current families? Give examples of referrals for family needs or resources brought into the program to support families or to broaden family knowledge of child development, community opportunities, etc
- Become part of the fabric of the local community? Give examples

QUALITY

- How does the program measure teacher satisfaction, needs for support, and effectiveness? Give examples for each. If the program has not addressed one or more of the areas, how will you do so in the future?
- What supports has the program provided to help teachers understand and utilize the ELDS and DOTS?
- Question re QSM and program support for furthering their education
- What QE grant resources have you and your teachers used and found effective in improving classroom quality? Give examples. If you did not use a QE service, why?
- Question about equity—program understanding of, learning about, infusing in classroom and family engagement

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- How are parents' voices being heard about: who their child is, their abilities and interests, and their needs? Give examples of how this is done.
- How are parents involved in program governance? Give examples of issues parents have expressed and how they were resolved. Give examples of decisions parents made about program policies or procedures. (have available: a list of board and committee members -identify parent members and meeting minutes)
- How are parents involved in program evaluation? Give examples and have documentation available.

Quality Enhancement Grant:

Denise described past practice in disseminating and reviewing the QE grant applications. Selection of services requested is based on surveys of SR programs' use and satisfaction. Handout described QE history, OEC requirements, list of current QE contractors and recommendations for FY20 process.

NEXT STEPS

Establish a workgroup to finalize RFP for Council approval

Establish a Review Committee to review grant submissions

Full Council to vote on funding after review of grant scoring and SR provider needs assessment.

Council vote:

Motion: To transfer the 87 SR spaces currently operated by St Francis and St Rose of Lima to Catholic Charities. SR Project Director Denise Duclos described the request by St Francis and St Rose of Lima Church/School to relinquish its management responsibilities for the program. The Grants and Operations Committees were made aware of this request and have been working with St Francis and Catholic Charities since May 2018. Catholic Charities has fulfilled all the requirements to operate the program and is an experienced SR provider, operating 2 SR sites in New Haven as well as SR sites in Hartford, Meriden and Waterbury.

The motion was made by Sarah Fabish, 2nd by Alison Wunder Stahl. Motion approved by Council.

NHECC BUSINESS

NHPS FY20 School Choice Process

Mary Derwin, acting NHPS Early Childhood Supervisor, described the NHPS FY20 enrollment and pre-registration process, the calendar of events including dates of Expos. Flyers were distributed.

New this year: All SR and Head Start programs will be represented at the Expos and information about them is included in the Choice Booklet.

NHPS Welcome Center:

Deputy Superintendent Ivelise Vazquez described the NHPS' decision to convert the Choice and Enrollment Office into a Welcome Center. The Center will offer a one-stop-shopping for all NHPS services, including enrollment in NHPS' School Readiness and Head Start Programs.

City Transformation Plan Family Engagement:

Several NHECC council members and City of New Haven discussed a plan to survey families in their neighborhoods so we can better understand the needs, interests of families. The core planning team has designed a protocol to host community conversations with families in the community. The team is seeking to connect with organizations who already convene families to attend an event or meeting and facilitate the conversation. Conversations hosted at a local community event will need to include food and childcare. Three conversations have already been scheduled. Materials and further details will be discussed during the February 2019 Council meeting.

City Transformation Plan Strategies:

The City of New Haven asked the Council to provide feedback on the current strategies that have been prioritized by the City of New Haven. CTP strategies were posted on the wall under the categories of Access, Quality, and Family Engagement. Meeting attendees reviewed each Council goal and the CTP strategies aligned with the Council goal – to offer feedback on what should be changed, prioritized, or added to the Council's agenda. The resulting document is attached to this document.