*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**

May 10, 2017

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

Dr. Reginald Mayo Early Childhood School

**Guest Presentation**

Merrill Gay from the CT Early Childhood Alliance provided an update on the Care4Kids program in CT. Highlights from Merrill's presentation are as follows;

* Care4Kids remains closed
* Current efforts to advocate included the following;
	+ letters, emails and calls to legislators
	+ meetings with legislators across the state in local communities
	+ data on the number slots by city are being distributed
	+ advocacy on revenue generating bills
		- Tolls
		- Tax on Sugary drinks
		- Lower the sales tax and cover more services/goods
	+ New Haven has lost a total of 425 slots since the program closed
	+ Need 33 million dollars to fully fund the C4Kids

To stay up to date on what actions community members can take, visit CT Early Childhood Alliance’s website and sign up for the mailing list.

**Committee Updates**

By Laws Committee - continues to meeting regularly to complete the By-Laws and they are about midway through a completed document. Once there is a draft in place, there will be a presentation at one Council meeting and then the vote will take place during another meeting. There was a motion made to have the proposed by-laws document sent in advance of the meeting. Randi will need to provide a full list of voting members.

Racial Equity Committee - The Racial Equity Committee will be submitting a request to be added to the June Council meeting agenda to discuss the Children’s Bill of Rights Campaign.

PreK Enrollment and Access - Denise shared that the committee is exploring establishing best practices in kindergarten transition. The next step is get a commitment from NHPS. The next meeting is in June.

Other Committees: Prek Access and Enrollment and Quality Enhancement will have co-chairs selected within the next month.

**Announcements**

Allyx shared an update on the Fair Haven Stroll and thanked all who supported the event. The event was a huge success. Among those who attended were Senator Looney and Rosa DeLauro. The event had 36 participating organizations and 725 community members in attendance. The funds raised were a total of $10,000.

**School Readiness and QE Grant Review**

The Grants committee presented their recommendations for the SR Program and QE grants to the voting members. Due to significant cuts in the QE grant, many of the requests were not approved. The Grants committee attempted to distribute the funds toward requests that best aligned with the needs of SR programs. The recommendations were approved by a unanimous vote.