**NHECC Infant and Toddler Committee meeting**

**May 11, 2016**

**UWGNH**

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

Infant-Toddler Committee Result: The city’s most vulnerable families and caregivers have the knowledge and skills to support their children’s development beginning at birth.

Summary of Discussion

1. Introductions

Yoo Jin Chang, Kathy Hagearty, Tirzah Kemp, Christina Nelson, Mona Scales, Elizabeth Teller, Cheryl Williams, Sadie Witherspoon

Guests: Rev Eldren Morrison and Rev Dr. Rochelle Stackhouse

1. Members reviewed the March minutes. They did not need any correction. Kathy noted we did not meet in April.
2. What role can faith based organizations play?

We began our discussion by reviewing with our guests (the Rev. Eldred Morrison, Varick AME Zion and Rev. Dr. Rochelle Stackhouse, Church of the Redeemer) about our role in NHECC and our work surveying stakeholders about screening and follow-up. We shared our belief that the faith community has a critically important role in

connecting parents and the community to early childhood resources. We also said that we are interested in learning their perspective about congregation and community needs as they relate to early childhood. The pastors shared parents are concerned about many things. One or both pastors noted parents and caregivers want to know the following:

* whether or not their children are on track developmentally,
* obtaining health care coverage and finding the best providers,
* being accepted as a single parent,
* how to get into preschool

We discussed what would be a help to them. Rev. Stackhouse noted she uses the “street sheet” to find resources for people who are experiencing homelessness and thought something similar about early childhood would be helpful. Yoo Jin shared the work of the group who set up [www.getconnectednewhaven.com](http://www.getconnectednewhaven.com)

Everyone agreed it would be helpful for churches to have more information about early childhood resources.

We discussed different ways information could be disseminated: providing materials to the ministerial staff (inc. Christian Education), doing direct outreach, and having resource people churches can contact.

1. After our guests left we briefly discussed the committee’s future work and the significant changes. Tirzah emphasized we need to reiterate and define what we are about and what we want to do moving forward. There was general agreement that it seems the concerns of infant and toddlers is lost at the larger Council meeting

Next month will be Janet’s last meeting. Elisabeth offered to chair this subcommittee if the Operations Committee would like her to do so. This meeting is Christina’s last meeting. We congratulated her on her successful application to Columbia’s doctoral program in sociology. Yoo Jin’s VISTA time will be ending in August. Sadie shared she will be coming to future meetings. We all agreed it would be helpful to have the input of Ebony or a rep from Safe Babies Court and a rep from the CT AIMH.

1. Next meeting Wednesday June 8, 2016