



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

**NHECC March 04, 2020  
Meeting Minutes  
First Baptist Church, 609 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven, CT  
5:30 - 7:00 PM**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Dr Kimber called the meeting to order and started the round of introductions at 5:30 PM.

**February Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from February 5, 2020 Council meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

**School Readiness Project Director Report:**

- Local Process for SR and QE Grants - Denise presented options for the School Readiness and Quality Enhancement Grants for FY2021.
  - **School Readiness Spaces** - Option 1 would be to execute a full RFP process (public notice to call for RFPs from all eligible programs, site visits), and option 2 would involve executing an expedited process with the sites we are funding now. Given the tight timeline, it was decided that Denise would reach out to programs not currently receiving funding and determine if they intend to apply. If any of the programs would like to apply for the FY2021 grant, the full process would need to be executed. Denise will share the outcome by the next Council meeting. The Executive Committee will review the outcome and make a proposal to the full Council during the April 1st meeting.
  - **Quality Enhance Grant** - As with the SR Grant, the full RFP would be required if the Council wants to open the bid process to new contractors. If we continue with the current funded QE grantees, the Council can utilize the expedited process. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Council would use the current grantees for the Quality Enhancement Grant.
  - **FY20 QE Grant Changes**- An educational coach being supported through the QE grant. Due to the timeframe, the hours that have not been completed with the resigning coach --- will be allocated to another coach funded with the New Haven QE grant.

**Financial Budget report**

City of New Haven update - The current budget was provided as a handout. Payment from the City of New Haven has not arrived yet. The Council received the grant funding from the Early Childhood Collaborative to expand its community canvassing project. The grant application also includes funding to hire a bi-lingual outreach consultant.

## **Family Presentations**

Families living in various communities in New Haven shared their experiences on their challenges around childcare and other living arrangements in New Haven. Concerns around access to affordable housing, preschool and kindergarten enrollment, and strict rules on family supports, were the themes that emerged from the conversation. Additionally, parents shared challenges with the school choice lottery placement. In some cases, sibling preference is not accommodated -- introducing a series of conflicts with aftercare and program pick-up times.

## **Committee Updates**

**Quality and Access** met jointly prior to the NHECC meeting. The team offered to work in collaboration on several initiatives that can address strategies of both committees. Eliza reported that the committee is exploring strategies to have all seats filled by September 1st. To achieve this goal, the committee use some funding to support marketing efforts from NHECC and within programs. It was suggested that NHECC can provide contractual services to programs who are in need of website updates and printed marketing materials. Other suggestions include outreach post magnet enrollment, offer funding for EC providers who need to meet QSM requirements, and outreach to new SR providers in the area. Eliza will work with Randi to gather data on the cost of marketing strategies.

The **Family Partnerships** committee developed a strategy to use the Week of the Young Child as an opportunity to connect with families. It was recommended that the committee would set up outreach days at the Saturday Academy held by NHPS in the Hill, Dixwell, Dwight and Fair Haven. NHECC staff and volunteers will recruit families to attend focus groups and have lunch during the Saturday academy hours. Families will receive a gift card for participation and a resource bag for children 0 -5. The committee also suggested a local other to order books from as a family gift. Randi will follow up on ordering materials, gathering resources, and coordinating volunteers to assist.