

*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**

April 1, 2020

Time: 3:00 - 4:30

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Conference

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting called to order 3:10 pm

### **Welcome New Council Members**

Dr. Stewart shared that Mayor Elicker appointed staggering terms for all NHECC membership. New appointees were introduced and welcomed. The Council will hold orientation for new members in May.

### **Minutes from March 04, 2020 Council meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting was made by Eliza and seconded by Wendy. Minutes were approved by majority vote with one abstention.

### **School Readiness Project Director Report**

**FY2021 SR Grant Application/Process:** Denise shared that she reached out to offer programs who are not funded with SR funds, an invitation to submit an RFP. Denise has not received any requests for new programs to apply. Therefore, Denise is proposing that the Council move forward with a simplified RFP process which would involve a small group of volunteers to review current SR funded programs, space allocation requests, and prepare a recommendation to the full Council for vote in May. Motion made by Jennifer Heath, 2nd by Mary Derwin. Motion approved by majority vote with 1 abstention.

**FY2021 QE Grant Application/Process:** Denise made a proposal to have the Council utilize a similar process for the QE grants with the grant review process being conducted by the NHECC Quality Committee. A motion was made by Dr. Stewart and was 2nd by Wendy Simmons.

### **Project Updates**

**Family Canvassing:** Randi shared that due to limitations for in person meetings, that it was necessary to develop a back up plan to meet the goals of the family canvassing project. Due to the need to expend funds by June 30, 2020 an alternative strategy to survey parents has been started. A text survey has been sent to parents via text messages. Parent contacts were asked to refer 5 parents to take the survey. The initial outreach has resulted in 25

survey responses within a week. The goal is to have a representative sample from Dixwell, Newhallville, Dwight, and the Hill. Gift cards are mailed to respondents within 2 days.

**Comer Project:** Randi has been in touch with Camille Cooper. Recruitment activities are on hold until social distancing restrictions are lifted.

### **Committees Updates**

- **Family Partnership** - The Week of the Young Child Outreach was planned for Saturday Academy with NHPS. This project is on hold until social distancing protocols are lifted. Books and other materials are ready to go once we can meet. The list of families who responded to the survey will
- **Quality/Access** - Meet jointly and decide to combine committee resources to meet overlapping goals. After the meeting on March 18, it was decided that the resources should be allocated towards marketing preschool programs and cleaning and disinfecting services for SR funded programs. Due to the cost of cleaning and disinfecting services, a motion was made to utilize the joint resources of \$6,000 toward marketing. Randi will follow up with seeking grant funding to support cleaning and disinfecting services for SR funded programs. A potential grant proposal can be sent to the Graustein Memorial Fund.

### **Announcements**

**CERCLE** is offering consultation services to programs to assist with applying for the small business loan program.

**The Office of Early Childhood** would like to establish a site for cleaning supplies delivery and pickup in New Haven. Two resources were offered as a potential pickup and delivery site. Denise will follow up and coordinate with volunteers and other resources. OEC has not indicated which centers and family care centers remain open. Jennifer noted that 211 has been collecting this information and she will see if she can get access for the Council. This information can be used to understand the # of programs that will need to gain access to the cleaning supplies offered by OEC.

**Wendy Simmons noted that the Family Survey initiated by NHChild** to assess family childcare needs during COVID, has received a total of 69 responses, 10 of which are in Spanish. 40 of the respondents have issues with childcare and 41 have agreed to be contacted with more information. Themes show concerns with leaving children at home as well as challenges working from home

**Tirzah Kemp** noted that Clifford Beers remains fully operational to serve families using Telehealth. She will share any emerging needs they gather from their contact with families.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM**