NHECC Monthly Council Meeting Agenda

Virtual Meeting

<http://bit.ly/nheccMonthlyMeeting>

January 13, 2021

Time: 3:00-4:30 pm

Present: Jennifer Heath, Co-Chair NHECC; Sherri Killins Stewart Chair Family Partnership**;** Eliza Halsey, Chair of Access Committee; Wendy Simmons, Quality Committee Chair; Denise Duclos, School Readiness Director and Grant Manager; Randi McCray, Consultant NHECC; other NHECC Members At Large

Meeting called to order at 3:00 P.M. by Jennifer Heath, Co-Chair

Welcome: J. Heath extended welcome to attendees

Approval Meeting Minutes for December 2020. **Motion to Accept December 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes without changes. Karen DuBois-Walton/MOVED Darrah Sipe/SECONDED Motion Carried.**

School Readiness Updates by D. Duclos

An overview of data illustrated in report was given *(please see December 2020/January 2021 email attachments)*. The following was discussed: On-Site and Remote vs Current-SR-COVID Capacity and Served in December 2020; closures due to COVID exposures; CoNH-HD protocol as it relates to COVID exposures and subsequent next steps for classroom or centers. Attendees notified of the following:

* OEC to pay full program funding for December 2020 and January 2021
  + K. DuBois-Walton asked when funding will be made available. New/updated information has not been received, according to J. Heath.
* Consultant working with three centers in the New Haven Area (West River, Fair Haven, and Dwight) to provide assistance through the SR Certification process.
  + S. Killins Stewart asked that those providers working with the consultant share the following as it relates to this process: what has been helpful? what were they able to do themselves? how could partnership help?

Announcements – Open

* Link to ‘Idea Board’ – listening session for Lieutenant Governor will be shared to NHECC
* Advertising for PPE and support for new grants i.e. resources documents shared to NHECC
* K. DuBois-Walton – Connecticut Legislature open last week; there will be a full agenda that will focus on new initiative – expanding access to affordable housing. All are encouraged to attend future sessions.
* J. Heath – UWGNH partnering with United Ways across the state to focus on the following: ‘expanding income tax credit;’ ‘child tax credit;’ ‘Medicaid expansion.’

Council Staffing Update by J. Heath

J. Heath announced that Cynthia Watson, will be working with NHECC.

NHECC Committee Work and Sign Ups by J. Heath

Attendees were asked to consider ‘joining’ with and in the work of the NHECC Committee’s. J. Heath asked each Chair to give an overview of their committee and possible meeting dates:

* Quality Committee, Chair Wendy Simmons. Focus: teaching and learning better. Please contact W. Simmons for next meeting date and other Quality Committee related question. Meeting information: time/date alternate
* Access Committee, Chair Eliza Halsey. Focus: how are we connecting with families; ensuring capacity and sustainability in centers. Meeting information: 4th Monday at 3PM
* Family Partnership, Chair Sherri Killins Stewart. Focus: Children learn, grow and thrive (develop). Meeting information: 1st Wednesday at 2PM

Please look to receive reminders concerning upcoming committee meetings as well as a ‘blurb’ highlight each committee purpose, work and activities.

Finance Update by J. Heath

No new updates, however, note the following:

* Draw down/pull down from CoNH is in process; note: activities the $200,000 line item for committee’s – documents will be updated to reflect changes.
* Conversation concerning Graustein Memorial Fund racial and equity grant, the spend down is up coming up.

Equity in New Haven Early Childhood (Discussion) by S. Killins-Stewart and W. Simmons

Facilitators: Sherri Killins Stewart and Wendy Simmons led attendees through subject heading. The following are some of the excerpts from that discussion/conversation:

* How are people (NHECC) thinking about equity in early childhood? Responses included:
  + Families accessing highest quality early childhood experience
  + Ability to find programs with providers that are culturally relevant
  + Access to pediatric appointments; figure out barriers around accessing appointments.
  + Access to transportation, systems, fiscal systems; systems of sexism/racism; teachers (women) are paid low wage; equity in resources versus inequity in family as a result of inequity in funding; burden on families and workforces
  + Policies not in place for educating teaching staff; workforce and compensation; ability of program to pay/assist in education payment for people who have aptitude for work so that they meet/exceed academic standards so that they are ‘paid’ accordingly
  + Quality and whiteness / centered
    - Who defines quality?
    - What is the role of the NHECC as ‘we’ think over this?
  + Equity needs to be define
* Summary – S. Killins-Stewart: What happens in the classroom? What happens to the adults (parents, healthcare provider, and teachers)? What we do and listen to and respond to, as it relates equity? Council was asked to ‘Think larger for children and families!’

**Next conversation is about taking action, according to S. Killins-Stewart**.

* To drill down to see what it would take to do! Decide how in each of the committee’s ‘equity’ shows-up. How does/can data or measures inform change?
* How do NHECC engage with others to join in the ‘Equity Conversation?’ i.e. have each NHECC bring back information; host another conversation

Committee Updates (information)

Addressed in above see ‘NHECC Committee Work and Sign Ups’

Other Items – N/A

**MOTION to Adjourn W. Simmons MOVED/Elisabeth Teller SECONDED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Randi McCray, Secy Pro-Tem