



## April 3, 2024 Council Meeting Notes

Members Present	9/6/23	10/4/23	11/1/23	12/20/23	2/7/24	3/6/24	4/3/24	MAY	JUNE
Allyx Schiavone	•	o	o	•	•	•	o		
Averi Pakulis	o	o	•	•	•	•	•		
Billy Johnson	o	o	o	o	o	o	o		
Carmelita Valencia-Daye	•	•	o	•	o	•	•		
Daniel Diaz	o	o	o	o	o	o	o		
Elisabeth Teller	o	o	o	•	•	•	•		
Eliza Halsey	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Galit Sharma	o	o	o	o	o	•	o		
Jennifer Heath	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Jerry Haruna	•	o	o	•	o	o	•		
Jess Bialecki	•	•	•	o	x	x	x		
Karen Dubois-Walton	•	•	o	•	•	•	o		
Kioamary Sotillo	•	•	o	•	•	•	•		
Leeora Netter	o	•	•	o	•	•	o		
Lynn Wiener	o	•	•	•	•	x	x		
Mary Derwin	•	•	o	•	•	•	•		
Robin Moore-Evans	•	o	•	•	•	o	•		
Sadie Witherspoon	o	o	•	•	o	•	•		
Soma Mitra	o	•	o	•	•	•	o		
Steven Cousin	o	o	o	o	o	o	o		
Susan Taddei	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Tamesha Robinson	•	•	•	•	•	•	o		
Vanessa Diaz-Valencia	•	•	o	•	•	•	•		
<i>Percent in attendance:</i>	57%	57%	43%	74%	67%	76%	57%		

Staff: Denise Duclos, Kerry Oberg

Guests: Sabrina Silverstein, Katie McGinnis

### Welcome & Call to Order

Jennifer called the meeting to order and announced that because Senators Murphy and Blumenthal were in town visiting child care centers, Tammy Robinson could not join us. Vanessa Diaz-Valencia needs to leave early to speak at the meeting with Senator Blumenthal and so her presentation on NHPS’ preschool restructuring will be the first item on the agenda.

### New Haven Public Schools Restructuring

Vanessa Diaz Valencia presented a PowerPoint and outlined changes the early childhood department is making as part of the NHPS Strategic Plan for the 2025 school year. The full plan will be available on the NHPS website once presented and approved by the New Haven Board of Education. The key goal of the plan is to align and integrate all preschool programs run by the NHPS—School Readiness, Head Start, Magnet PreK, Special Education Prek.

This includes alignment of the curriculum, refocus on classrooms and professional development, and a review of the budgets of each program and a reduction in seats where necessary.

### Announcements

- Jessica Legere of Friends Center for Children announced that the April 3 **Morning Without Childcare** will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 8am on the New Haven Green across from City Hall. They are trying to arrange carpools due to limited parking in this area. The event was originally scheduled for April 3 but was moved due to rain.
- Jessica also announced the annual **New Haven Family Stroll** on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Quinnipiac Park.
- Denise Duclos announced the annual **Week of the Young Child (WOYC) Kick Off Festival** on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am-1pm at the Edgewood Park Coogan Pavilion.
- Flyers for all these events will be emailed to all Council members, guests, and School Readiness Providers.
- Sabrina Silverstein introduced Katie McGinnis, the new Executive Director of the CT Children's Museum and Creating Kids Childcare Center.
- Susan Taddei announced the New Haven Chapter of the CTAEYC will hold a conference 'Sandbox to Society' that will include lots of workshops and a keynote by Dr. Wendy Simmons. More info to follow.

### Project Updates

Jennifer Heath gave a brief update on the three projects the Council has recently taken on.

- **RAPID Survey Project** is a Stanford Center for Early Childhood initiative that the CT Project has brought to Connecticut. The Council applied as the entity in New Haven to promote surveys to families with children under the age of 6 years to find out their views on various aspects of raising a family with young children. The first survey will be disseminated in May and will focus on parents' ability to find quality, affordable early childhood programs in their communities. The survey results will be shared with all participating communities with the hope that the data can be disaggregated to be more New Haven specific. The Council will receive \$5,000 for each quarterly survey completed for a total of up to \$40,000 over 2 years.
- **Local Early Childhood Collaborative (LECC):** the Connecticut Children's Collective has given New Haven \$30,000 to help the Council focus on the needs of parents with young children and to bring their views to light in both New Haven and on a state level.
- **Parent Outreach Project:** The Council has been invited to participate in this project (still being designed) to hire parent ambassadors who will do outreach to New Haven families with young children in key neighborhoods to learn what is working and not regarding early childhood services. Funding for this project is from the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and also includes funding for a project coordinator. More to come on this.

### Committee Reports

Jennifer explained that the Council's work will mostly be done in committees and that all Council members are expected to join and participate in a committee. In addition to the ones listed below, there will be other committees—either standing committees or ad hoc.

- **Quality Enhancement Committee:** Denise Duclos reported that the first committee meeting held on March 6<sup>th</sup> generated a lot of ideas about how New Haven can build a professional development community of both center-based and family child care providers that includes the required trainings as well as the professional development needs. The next meeting will be held April 10<sup>th</sup>. A meeting invite will go out to all council members as well as school readiness/Head Start providers and organizations that work with family childcare providers.
- **School Readiness Committee:** Kerry Oberg updated the committee on the school readiness spaces being relinquished by Yale New Haven Hospital Day Care. The committee discussed plans for reviewing the FY25 School Readiness applications.
- **NHECC Web Design** no report from the committee.

### School Readiness Liason Report:

- Kerry Oberg said the RFP for the Behavioral/Mental Health Consultant was posted.

- Kerry presented a PowerPoint showing the books that were purchased with the help of Lauren Anderson at Possible Futures Book Store. Forty-seven prek classrooms and 10 infant toddler rooms received books which included local authors, bilingual and multi-cultural books.
- Council members are invited to read a children's picture book in one of the School Readiness sites via an online signup where members can choose a program and time that fits their schedule.

#### **School Readiness Recommendations for FY25**

OEC has not told local councils how much money each will be getting. Info is expected by Friday. Kerry shared a spreadsheet showing that the baseline for every program will be the number of spaces they had in FY24; OEC is increasing the reimbursement rate for full day programs from the current \$8,924 to \$10,500. If more money is available, other decisions will have to be made. We will reconvene once we have the information regarding funding from OEC.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15