

NHECC December 2022 Meeting Meetings

December 7, 2022

Time: 4:00 -5:30 pm

Virtual: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86445640291?pwd=bHZpanZXZmpBaUIMV1hBRnpMWEREZzog>

Meeting ID: 864 4564 0291

Passcode: 898857

Attendance: Randi McCray, Tamesha Robinson, Sarah Chambers, Jennifer Heath, Robin Moore-Evans (Toni Evans), Dr. W. (Billy) Johnson, Shubhra Gupta, Karen DuBois-Walton, Eliza Halsey, Connecticut Children's Museum & Creating Kids (Jess B.), Jerry Haruna, Sadie Witherspoon, Pamela Augustine-Jefferson, Elisabeth Teller-CT, Carmelita Valencia-Daye, Susan Taddei, Friends Center for Children (Allyx),

Meeting called to order at 4:05 PM

Jennifer noted the focus for the year was to help our School Readiness programs become and remain viable. Therefore, much of the work this year has been to support programs by understanding their needs and identifying opportunities to meet those expressed needs when possible.

Lulac's Relocation Request (vote)

Shubhra shared the relocation request from Lulac. Lulac is relocating from an older facility on (375 James Street, New Haven) to a newly constructed childcare facility (106 Haven Street, New Haven) that has been purchased with federal funds. We will be operating 6 infant/toddler classrooms and 3 preschool classrooms.

Motion: Karen D.

Second: Eliza H.

Abstentions: Jessica B., Elizabeth T, Pamela A., Carmelita D.

The motion carried with a majority vote.

New Haven SR Non Residency Policy (vote)

Enrollment has been low post-covid. Programs noted that they have been refusing non-residents. To address this issue, the School Readiness Committee

submitted a request to modify New Haven's SR non-residency policy. The Policy change will be effective through August 2023 so the child can remain in the program until entering kindergarten. The Council will review this policy after one year of implementation. In particular, the Council will review documentation showing utilization by School Readiness programs, and consider at that one year any recommendations for modification or continuation of this policy.

The temporary policy change will address the shortage in enrollment for many programs and assist families in need of space with no other options available for care. And the policy will cover families. Under this policy, programs will be able to enroll up to 2% of the SR allocation number (ex., 20 SR spaces, 2 spaces can be non-resident)

Motion: Jerry H.

Second: Robin M.E.

Abstentions: Pam A., Carmelita V., Elizabeth T.

The motion carried with a majority vote.

Clifford Beers Proposal (Discussion)

In response to a request from SR Programs to support children with behavioral concerns, the SR Committee is sharing a request to have The New Haven Early Childhood Council allocate 21,000/- for fast track assessment and support of children having social-emotional concerns. This proposal is based on the initial surveyed needs of 30 children in 7 SR programs (Creative M.E-6, First Step Child Care and Learning Center-6, Friends Center-2, Leila Day Nursery-3, St Andrew's-7, Yale NH Hospital Day Care Center-3 and YMCA Youth Center-3). Based on the level of intervention needed, this amount may be able to support more than 30 children. Children may be referred based on the severity of the need. Instead of the program directors, SR Education and Mental Health consultants may be the ones to recommend the initial referral which would need to be approved by the SR office. Children from families below 50% of the State poverty guidelines will be given preference.

The School Readiness Committee discussed the proposal and wanted to gather feedback from Council members before developing a full proposal for a vote in January.

Phase 2 CDC Infant Toddler Expansion Grant (vote)

School Readiness Councils are eligible to apply for NEW CDC Infant Toddler Spaces on behalf of interested and currently funded School Readiness programs. Shubhra has received interest from some programs (6 applied, 2 would need to be endorsed before funding starts) who are interested in applying. A full document was shared during the meeting which outlines Phases 1 - 3. The vote for the meeting pertained to Phase 2. The Council will not be required to approve the program's application. Decisions will be made by OEC.

Purpose of the vote is to submit for the interested programs and advocate for additional resources to support the administrative costs to manage the CDC contract.

Motion: Eliza H.

Second: Karen D.

Abstentions:

Motion carried by majority vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.