

Branford School Readiness Council Meeting  
September 20, 2019

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Present: Hamlet Hernandez, Vanessa Fleming-Redd, Rachel Kalman, Ginger Vickstrom, Carole Weisberg, Robin Comey, Carly Lemire, James Cosgrove, Michele Krumenacker, Diane Pappacoda, Dale Izzo

Guest: Barbara Stern.

Carole introduced Barbara Stern, who is a consultant with United Way of Greater New Haven. United Way is looking to provide support for early care providers in Branford.

Barbara presented the Council with an overview of trainings she has developed stemming from her work training on Circle of Security in the state. The first step is a training workshop on Attachment Theory. This can be one-day long training or can be conducted in two evenings. The next step - If there is interest and commitment on the part of attendees, is a 6 week training on Circle of Security for ECE Professionals – this 6 week, presenter led, DVD based program meets 1 ½ hours per week. For those ECE Professionals who complete the 6 week training, coaching in small groups will be offered. The program has been implemented in Hamden with great success.

Michele K. reported that she had received a grant from United Way for the FRC and her staff are scheduled to be trained on Circle of Security.

#### Minutes

Motion (Robin Comey): to approve the minutes from 7/19/19, as presented.

Seconded: Carly Lemire

Motion passed

#### SR Liaison Report

- Wait List Report – 20 eligible children currently on wait list, plus 15 children who are not-yet-eligible (too young).
- QE Grant Update: ACES will identify a BCBA consultant to work directly with our SR Programs.
- Focus on Quality Components for school year:
  - Kindergarten Transition
    - SR Program directors have identified this as an area for improvement and looking to build on prior efforts of the BECC led Kindergarten Transition team. The SR Council will be convening a sub-committee to work on implementing intentional and consistent ways in which to improve processes for parents, children and teachers.

- Parent Involvement
  - Picking up on the success of the Parent Forum held last year, the SR Council will coordinate with BECC and partners for a “2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parent Forum”
    - To be held in April 2020 to coincide with the Week of the Young Child.
    - Hamlet has offered space at Branford’s New Intermediate School and food service for participants for the Forum.
    - Carole will convene the PD Committee to work on content and details of the forum.
- Professional Development
  - Attachment Theory for Educators (funded by United Way) – Carole will follow up with Barbara Stern and the Branford early childhood community to come up with dates and place for training.
  - Follow-up to Seedling’s Institute: Carole, Diane P. and Robin attended the Seedling’s Institute in July, and will work together to present on their learning to the early childhood community.

Website update: Branford Public School’s website has been redeveloped and there will be a place for the Branford School Readiness Council information to be posted. Hamlet will have the district website tech person be in touch with Carole when time permits and the new school year is settled in.

#### Community Outreach/Projects

The Shoreline Community Church will once again sponsor Light the Night. Free fun filled event on October 31st on the town Green, starting at 5:30 children will visit businesses and local homes, including the churches surrounding the green. Music, food, games and lots of fun.

#### Public Comment

Robin Comey reported that there is a movement to get Care4Kids to fund children whose parents are in school. Other states are doing this.

Care4Kids is behind in processing applications. The program is open, but the process is long.

United Way of CT is the administrator of Care4Kids.

Motion (Robin Comey): to adjourn at 11:05  
 Seconded: James Cosgrove  
 Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Vickstrom  
Carole Weisberg