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BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Branford School Readiness
April 13, 2018

Present: Dale Izzo, Ginger Vickstrom, Carole Weisberg, Hamlet Hernandez, Jaimie Cosgrove, Brooke St. Pierre, Robin Comey and Michele Krumenacker

Meeting was called to order at 9:37 am by Dale Izzo.

Minutes (Robin Comey): to accept the minutes from March 16, 2018 with amendment.

Seconded: Jaimie Cosgrove

Motion Passed

Liaison Report

Wait list has 25 children. Three have been enrolled at BELC, 3 open spaces at FRC. Twelve are currently eligible, 7 of them are eligible up until December and 6 will be eligible for the coming year.

Carole will be creating one form that will be used to document all children on one list.

Carole will check to see what the State policy is regarding wait lists.

No funding for wrap around services is available to Competitive Districts.

If we wanted to request more slots that request would need to be given to the State before March.

Carole reported on the following Bills to watch:

HB 5169 - Among the provisions, this bill would make it easier for homeless families to obtain child care, thus helping them work and change their situations. The bill also fixes an error that creates unreasonable background checks and requirements on grandmothers and other family members that are caring for children using Care4Kids. And, it provides for licensed early child care programs to be included in the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's emergency notification system.

HB 5449 - This is an act concerning the alignment and merger of early care and education program funding streams, eligibility, rate, and policies. It would make it easier for the OEC to adjust provider rates for School Readiness and state-funded centers. This bill will allow the OEC to prioritize infants and toddlers if there is a Care4Kids wait list. It also includes language that SR Funds allot 5% to administration of the SR grant.

HB 5450 - Would push back the 50/50 and Bachelor's degree requirement deadline by two years (2020 and 2023) and require the OEC to prepare a report evaluating these requirements and the issues the field has had in meeting the requirements.

School Readiness Technical Assistance on family eligibility and sliding fee scales will be held April 26, in New Haven.

Andrea Brinnel has discussed the grant submission process. After the grant has been submitted a PDF copy can be requested. We also learned that School Readiness spaces are frozen as of March 30, 2018.

OEC reported that GP B-06 regarding children with special needs who have an IEP has had unintended consequences. It has resulted in reduced dollars to programs because of hours the child is not in the SR program because of special services being provided to the child. The State has created a Draft form to be used by programs being affected by this policy. The form is a request for "B-06 Annualization of Hours" which program director's complete and send to the Liaison. She will send through a secure email to the State for review and approval. This is a pilot project to assess the need and prevent reduction of SR funding for the child.

Carole reported that the Pyramid Model Training has been completed.

Michele and Carole are in the process of setting up a meeting with Don Neel to discuss the State policy regarding the financial invoicing process for School Readiness programs.

Co-Chair report

The co-chairs and liaison (s) past and present, are working on the grant for 2019. The grant is due May 15, 2018.

Committee Reports

Robin Comey talked about the Week of the Young Child and the activities that will take place during this week. Each classroom received a copy of "The Kindness Quilt" and the children will be making a quilt patch that will be displayed in the merchants windows uptown.

On Tuesday, April 24th, 6-8 pm, Branford Fire Department, the film RESILIENCE will be shown. It is a movie that "delves into how stressful childhood experiences can alter brain development and have life-long effects on health and behavior". So far 45 people have signed up to attend.

They are not doing a big family event this year.

Guilford is starting an Early Childhood Collaborative and they are talking about regionalizing the Collaborative.

ACES in Hamden is starting an Early Childhood Regional Collaboration and have invited Carole to join them.

New Business

Quality Enhancement applications were handed out to be reviewed by the Council. There were 2 submissions: Aces-Emily Free and. Sue Vivian from ECConsulting.

After review by the Council the following motion was made:

Motion (Hamlet Hernandez): to accept the QE proposal submitted by ACES.

Seconded: Michele Krumenacker

Motion Passed

The new Conflict of Interest Policy form was distributed. This document should be reviewed and signed by all Council members.

No Public Comments

Michele Krumenacker will work with Yvonne to track children that have been in the SR program.

Lisa Swain would like to attend one of our council meetings to talk about kindergarten transition that they do in Bridgeport. We will invite her to our next meeting.

Next meeting: May 18, 2018, Branford Town Hall, 9:30 am

Motion (Jaimie Cosgrove): to adjourn at 10:51.

Seconded: Brooke St. Pierre

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Vickstrom