

Branford School Readiness Council Meeting  
**Meeting Minutes**  
September 17, 2021

**Council Members Present are in Bold: Dale Izzo, Carole Weisberg, Carly Lemire, Robin Comey, James Cosgrove, Diane Pappacoda, Stephanie Linke, Rachel Kalman, Lauren Skultery, Vanessa Fleming-Redd, Charles Cicarella, Kim Cellini (New FRC Director)**

The meeting was called to order at 9:39 AM by Chair Dale Izzo

**1. Approval of meeting minutes:**

A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes from 08/20/2021

1<sup>st</sup>: James Cosgrove      2<sup>nd</sup>: Diane Pappacoda      motion carries

**2. SR Liaison Report:**

Carole reported that all the grant documents and processes are in and complete. We have not yet received the Supplemental Administrative Funds, but expect to soon. Once the funds are received, Carole will reach out to Gladys Deutsch to set up a schedule for her observation visits to the FRC and BELC SR classrooms. ACES has reached out and has assigned a BCBA consultant who is eager to begin working with us. Carole indicated that a little time is needed for programs to acclimate to the new school year and will set up a meeting with program directors and the BCBA consultant in October.

OEC has put out new guidance on program reporting and new resources and training opportunities which Carole has shared with the program directors. State funded programs that have a need to reduce hours open to families due to COVID, must submit a waiver request to OEC. OEC provided information and resources on Screening and Assessment, including free access to the Sparkler App for families with children ages 0-5 years. Sparkler is a mobile app that offers developmental screening, play activities and connection to services from their schools/programs and/or 211 Child Development and Help Me Grow CT.

**3. Program Site Updates:**

**FRC:** Welcome to Kim Cellini, the new FRC Director. Kim reported that they have hired a full time head teacher, and will be hiring an assistance teacher for the afternoons.

Currently FRC is opened 9 hours per day due to COVID, staffing and cleaning and the waiver has been filled out and filed with the OEC. The program is currently full.

Charles Cicarella noted that the FRC, under Kim's leadership, are great collaborators towards meeting the individual needs of children as well as embracing the sense of children as part of a community of learners.

**BELC:** Diane reported they were informed that the RULER pilot program for Preschools was shutting down, but good news is that they will be able to use their \$6,000 grant to access the RULER Approach training and resources offered through the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence (YCEI.org/RULER).

Diane also reported that she had several State inspection, including Health Department and Fire Marshall Inspection and all went well, and they are addressing the minor issues that were presented. The program is currently fully staffed, SR enrollment is full with 4 children on the waitlist, and she has some spaces available in other categories.

**4. School/Community Reports:**

Dale reported that the Parks and Recreation Afternoon Adventures Afterschool Program is doing well. We have 27 children from the K-4 elementary schools and have a waitlist.

**5. Old Business:**

**A. Council Vacancies:** The council continues to do outreach for new members. We will be meeting with the Interim Director of BECC. FRC and BELC will reach out to their families to see if there is interest from them to join the council.

**6. New Business:** none

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

1<sup>st</sup>: James Cosgrove                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Vanessa Fleming-Redd

Motion carries

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 AM

The next SR Council Meeting is October 15<sup>th</sup>.