

Branford School Readiness Council

November 20, 2020

Those Present are in BOLD: The following were present via Zoom due to COVID-19 **Dale Izzo, Carole Weisberg, Lauren Skultety, Robin Comey,** James Cosgrove **Michele Krumenacker,** Alison Tyliszczak, **Diane Pappacoda,** Carley Lemire, Rachel Kalman, Vanessa Fleming-Reid, and Stephanie Linke.

Meeting was called to order by Dale Izzo at 9:32 am via Zoom.

Carole gave an overview of the grant to date as well as the Quality Enhancement grant. The SR QE Grant has been approved by OEC, and the budget has been entered into the system. Carole has reached out to ACES and a preliminary Zoom meeting with our BCBA Consultant has been scheduled for next week. After which the consultant will work directly with the program directors and site staff.

Carole and Robin reported on a United Way Town Hall webinar on the 2020 ALICE report. ALICE stands for "Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed" and relates to people who are working and struggle just above the poverty level. Child Care is a critical element for people to be able to work. In Branford 34% of families fall in the ALICE category. It was reported that statewide, Connecticut has 44% fewer programs than it did pre-COVID. Families are concerned about affordability and availability (particularly for Infant-Toddler care). Programs are at 65% capacity due to family loss of jobs, working from home and wanting to keep children home due to concerns about COVID.

Diane reported that her program had been closed for two weeks due to a staff member testing positive for COVID-19. They reopened yesterday and all went very well. The two-week closure, however, was a huge financial burden as parents were not charged for the period, but all staff were paid and other expenses remained. Robin mentioned a Federal reimbursement program for staff salaries for sick-leave related to COVID.

Michele reported that the program is going very well. They have a total of 16 students enrolled, separated into two classrooms.

There was discussion on the various virtual learning platforms the school uses and programs use during times when programs may need to close for quarantine purposes. They were: Google Classroom, Sea Saw, Google Meets, and Class Dojo for parent communication.

Lauren shared that the Branford Schools are doing a great job. The protocols are working and when there is a case of covid-19 it has been contained.

Community Reports:

The Recreation Department continues to offer toddler classes and a School Dayz Supportive Childcare Resource Center. The School Dayz program is open to kids on their day off from in-school and virtual school programming and provides homework time and assistance, and opportunity for kids to play in the gym and outdoors with adult supervision.

2021 SR Council Meeting Calendar proposed.

January 15
February 19
April 9
May 7
June 18
August 20
September 17
October 15
November 19

A motion was made to approve the SR Council Meeting Dates for 2021
1st: Michel Krumenacker 2nd: Diane Pappacoda motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am:
The next meeting will be January 15, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Izzo
Carole Weisberg

Addendum:

Motion was made to approve Meeting Minutes of October 16,2020 via email vote following the meeting.
1st Diane Pappacoda 2nd Dale Izzo Motion carried.