

**Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting**  
**September 22, 2010**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church Nursery School**  
**1101 Bedford Street**

***Council members present:***

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Burke, Jennienne    | Care to Care (Family Day Care)           |
| Collins, Dennis     | Parent                                   |
| Feder, Karen        | Abilis                                   |
| Fico, Karen         | Stamford Public Schools                  |
| Fox, Bridget        | Chair, School Readiness Council          |
| Glenn, Sheila       | ROSCCO                                   |
| Hallissey, Jennifer | United Way of Western Connecticut        |
| Morrow, Polly       | Parent Representative/Pitney Bowes       |
| Rauh, Polly         | Board of Education                       |
| Sabia, Michele      | Stamford Public Schools                  |
| Sandahl, Margo      | Instructional Coordinator, William Pitt  |
| Weller, Eva         | PLTI                                     |
| Karen Wenz          | First Presbyterian Church Nursery School |

***Advisers:***

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Garvin-Kester, Barbara | Executive Director, CLC                |
| Cammarota, Karen       | Grants Officer, City of Stamford       |
| Sargent, Carol         | Director of State funded Programs, CLC |
| Taratino, Sherry       | Sacred Heart                           |

***Guests:***

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Karlin, Melissa | Bright Horizons at High Ridge Park |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

Bridget began the meeting by thanking Karen Wenz for hosting the meeting at the First Presbyterian Church. She also welcomed Karen Brennan, the newly hired Discovery Coordinator for the United Way. Karen introduced herself, sharing that she has a background in education and technology and has worked to develop curriculum software.

Each of the Council members shared their favorite summer experience. Most notably, Polly Morrow shared that she just returned from a week-long trip to Malawi with the Stamford based group buildOn to help build a school. Polly will share her experiences with the Council at the November Council meeting.

Bridget referred to the 2010-2011 School Readiness Council meeting time schedule as well as meeting dates for the Council committees.

**II. Approval of Minutes from June 2010 Meeting**

The Council unanimously approved the July 2010 minutes.

**III. Announcements**

- Karen Feder announced that Abilis started a new program this summer at UCONN called “Life” for young adults on the autism spectrum. Three students are currently enrolled in the program. The ages are 18-21 and the program offers a 9:00-3:30 p.m. full day program. Abilis rents space from UCONN and are able to use their facilities. The morning provides an academic program which includes skills building activities around money management and healthy relationships. Abilis is exploring potential vocational opportunities for the students in the community.
- Barbara Garvin-Kester announced that CLC has been undergoing union negotiations with teachers for several months and there has yet to be a resolution. The teachers did take a strike vote on September 11<sup>th</sup>, but did not identify a date for a strike. CLC is still hopeful that a resolution can be reached, but they are creating contingency plans in case of a strike. Barbara asked providers at the table if there was any way that they could provide space for children who would not be served during a possible strike. She encouraged Council members to call her should they have any questions.
- **All Our Kin Application:** Bridget and Jennienne shared that Family Centers was successful in a grant application (application attached). This will mean that there will be outreach to Family Home Daycare providers in the Early Learning Guidelines for infant and toddlers. Jennienne explained that these guidelines are not yet posted. The guidelines were formed by the Department of Social Services. There will be a need for trainers that can be trained to go into daycares to provide training to providers. Trainers will be paid. Carol shared that Donna Dehlorey will be providing training on the Early Learning Guidelines at William Pitt in November.
- **Training Wheels:** CLC at William Pitt was successful in garnering the Training Wheels grant which will provide free professional development around the CT Preschool Curriculum Framework. A small team of teachers will participate in the training.
- **Swingset Mamas Benefit Performance November 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the Ferguson Library:** In order to send all 930 preschool aged children from CLC and Sacred Heart to attend a performance of the *Very Hungry Caterpillar* at the Palace Theater in February. To raise funding to send children to the show (we need close to \$15,000 to cover the costs of the \$10 ticket and transportation), there will be a benefit concert by the SwingSet Mamas at the Library.
  - Bridget shared materials from the Early Childhood Alliance’s “I Care for Kids and I Vote” campaign. Many Council members took materials and committed to posting lawn signs.

#### IV. Regular Reports

- CLC’s report had been read previously by the Council (included as an addendum to these minutes).
- Sacred Heart: there is no longer a kindergarten classroom at Sacred Heart so there is now an additional pre-k four room and as of today there are 40 children enrolled in the preschool program at Sacred Heart. The program has 20 School Readiness slots and all are filled. Sherry and her staff spent the summer updating parent and staff handbooks to address the NAEYC standards in preparation for accreditation. There are nine staff members at Sacred Heart. There was discussion around the VIRTUS training that is required by the diocese for any visitors that will in classrooms. The training is three hours long, never expires and is offered for free (soon by Sherry herself at Sacred Heart).

- Health Committee update: the committee met several times over the summer and there are new members and an event is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup> (see attached flyer).
- Education Committee has met several times and is focusing on curriculum alignment between the preschools and Stamford Public Schools' kindergarten curriculum.

## V. Old Business

No old business.

## VI. New Business

Michele Sabia and Margo Sandahl led the Council in a hands-on curriculum activity with the CT Preschool Framework.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup> at The Palace Theater, 61 Atlantic Street.**

### Addendum 1: Sacred Heart School Report (August/September 2010)

#### 1. August 2010 –

- The SHS Kindergarten Class had low enrollment and decision was made to help place the 6 remaining students either in another catholic school or in their district public school. All children were placed quickly and all Transition folders have been sent or hand delivered to each of the students schools.
- Due to a catholic school closing, we were offered preschool furniture for our new Pre K 4 classroom. The furniture we received were several children's tables, 20 children's chairs, water table, wooden blocks, foam blocks, stools, puzzles and storage shelf. All items were gently used and in great condition.
- All classrooms, bathrooms, gym, hall areas were scrubbed and cleaned. All furniture, toys and classrooms items were cleaned as well. All carpets were sent out for special cleaning. We ordered 2 new carpets, 1 kitchen table set and supplies for the upcoming school year.
- Books, posters and NAEYC accreditation books were ordered for staff members.

#### 2. Enrollment as of 9/20/10

School Day 7:30 – 2:00 / School Year September to June

Pre – K 3 Class 13 children

Pre – K 4 # 1 – 13 children

Pre – K 4 # 2 – 13 children

Total students = 39

We have several outstanding applications in which we are waiting to place these children.

#### 3. Children with disabilities – 1 Child with an IEP

38 without an IEP

#### 4. Program attendance –

Children - 98% attendance - runny noses, stomach flu and temperatures.

Staff – 100% attendance

5. **Staffing** – 9 staff members employed at SHS  
All staff from previous year have signed contracts and returned to SHS for this coming school year.  
No open positions to date.
6. **Staff Training** –
  - First staff meeting took place August 26<sup>th</sup>, followed by a workshop in “Discipline Management” with Dr. Cindy Bess.
  - The following day on August 27<sup>th</sup>, SHS staff participated in a workshop in “Diversity Training”, by Lucy Freeman.
  - On August 30<sup>th</sup>, teachers participated in a Convocation and Orientation regarding “Positive Teaching”.
  - On September 20<sup>th</sup>, all staff members did their recertification in Child CPR by ARC and then participated in a workshop on NAEYC Classroom Portfolios with Donna Delohery from AFP.
  - Mini Teacher Institute Training for staff will take place on October 12<sup>th</sup>.
7. **Special Events & Activities** –
  - Parent Open House evening took place on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Approx. 60% of our parents attended. All received copies of the Parent Handbook, The Community Resource Handbook, The Crisis Management Handbook, nutrition handouts, School Readiness handouts, Tips on the first days of school sheet and several other handouts.
  - Parent’s were handed out surveys regarding a series of workshops such as Nutrition, Discipline, Literacy and transition into preschool starting in October. Surveys indicated that parents are interested in nutrition. The exact workshop date is TBD and invites will go out end of week.
  - Student photos with Lifetouch Studios will take place on October 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - SHS will be hosting a VIRTUS training session for any parent, staff, vendor, consultant that works in, near or around any student at SHS. This is a diocesan requirement. The date is October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Addendum 2: Childcare Learning Centers, Inc. (August 2010)

- I. Program Utilization
  - a. Authorized Capacity – Full Day – 334; Part Day – 0; Extended Day – 95 = 429
  - b. Part Day Program was closed for summer
  - c. Children with disabilities = 29 with IEP  
9 without IEP
  - d. Notes and Trends: Extended day is connected with Head Start enrollments which do not start the new year until September 2, 2010.
- II. Program Attendance:
  - a. 95% Attendance
  - b. Notes and trends: - Attendance and enrollment have been up this summer. This is due to the diligence of the Family Service Workers to keep full enrollment throughout the year for funding purposes.
- III. Staffing
  - a. Open Positions – Assistant teacher in D1; Teacher Aide for Cluster B
  - b. Recruitment – ad on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC
  - c. Training:

- Three full days of Orientation took place August 20-24. Julie Coakley, Michele Sabia, and Paula Nazardo completed PCF/PAF training for all staff, policy review, First Aid/CPR, DCF, Special Needs, Nutrition, Health, and Social Service workshops took place.
- Early Childhood Consultation Partnership - training for staff on the partnership we will have this year addressing Mental health. This will include classroom and individual child consultation.
- We have submitted an application for “Training Wheels”. This in an in-depth training offered on the PCF/PAF.

IV. Special Events/Activities:

- New parent Orientations took place on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. We had approximately 300 families attend.
- Cleaned Center – new rugs, floors cleaned, work orders completed, scrubbing down of furniture and toys have all been done and the classrooms look wonderful. We do have new blinds coming at the end of September and are obtaining bids for addressing the fabric walls at William Pitt.
- Move from Stillmeadow to William Pitt went smoothly. Parents and children have transitioned well.