

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting

June 9, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Mayor's Conference Room

Council members present:

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| Collins, Dennis | Parent |
| D'Luc, Imelda | Head Start |
| Feder, Karen | Abilis |
| Fox, Bridget | Chair, School Readiness Council |
| Glenn, Sheila | ROSCO Agency |
| Hallissey, Jennifer | United Way of Western Connecticut |
| Mullet, Alisha | Soundwaters |
| Reardon, Ellen | Museum and Nature Center |
| Sabia, Michele | Public Schools Preschool Curriculum Associate |
| Sandahl, Margo | Instructional Coordinator, William Pitt |
| Ward, Caroline | Ferguson Library |
| Weller, Eva | PLTI |
| Wenz, Karen | First Presbyterian Nursery School |

Advisers:

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| Sargent, Carol | CLC |
| Taratino, Sherry | Sacred Heart |

Guests:

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| Ahuja, Sonja | Graustein Memorial Fund |
| Delesanti, Janet | Mid Fairfield CH Guidance ECCP |
| Lanzaro, Debbie | Gray Farms Nursery School |

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Approval of Minutes from May 2010 Meeting

The minutes from May minutes were approved.

III. Announcements

- Public Hearing for State's Early Childhood Cabinet Strategic Report: Monday, June 14th – 6:00 -8:00 PM Norwalk Community College
- Discovery Coordinator Interviews: Bridget explained that she, Jennifer Hallissey and Michele Sabia would be interviewing four candidates for the part-time Discovery Coordinator position later today.
- CSRPPES 2010: Bridget explained that this annual evaluation tool is due in August. Bridget met with a small group of parents at CLC and Sacred Heart to complete the evaluation assessment for the programs. Sacred Heart and CLC will compile their family survey data and submit to Bridget for the final report.
- St. Joseph's Parenting Center: Bridget shared some materials from this new agency that opened this past year in Stamford. Bridget will invite Measi O'Rourke, the Executive Director of the agency, to speak to the Council at an upcoming meeting about the services offered. Karen Feder added that Abilis has referred a few families and that if families are able to make the commitment to the program, it is a wonderful opportunity for parents.

- Imelda D’Luc shared the results from Head Start’s Community Assessment for 2009-2010. Head Start surveys parents at CLC as well as throughout the community. Childcare and Language was prioritized by parents. There was significant discussions around the findings.

IV. Regular Reports

- CLC and Sacred Heart’s reports had been read previously by the Council (included as an addendum to these minutes).
- The Education Committee met in May for the first time to prioritize the work of the committee. Anne Farrell has sent a survey monkey to committee participants to garner information on the best meeting times and days and will schedule the next meeting ASAP.

V. Old Business

- **Early Childhood Fair:** There was significant discussion around the Fair. Everyone felt it was a great success – close to 400 families attended!
- **Pros:** The donation of books was a wonderful addition to the day
The Fire and Police Departments did an excellent job of bringing many vehicles and worked so well with children and families.\
- **Next year:** Ferguson Library could host a “story time”
The United Way’s “Born Learning Trail” should be a guided activity.
Ronne Garber did such a good job that we should feature her more than once throughout the morning.

VI. New Business

- Cindy Stamandinoli from St. Vincent’s Special Needs Services spoke to the Council about the services provided through the Emergency Preparedness and Children with Special Needs Program. The program is funded through the Department of Public Health as well as the Department of Homeland Security. Children are really forgotten in an emergency and it is not just children with special needs. The program stresses to parents that they need to have an emergency plan in place to ensure that their children are safe, not only in a large emergency, but in an event that something changes the normal course of events.
- Cindy shared the “child passport” which is a passport that is worn on a child with all vital information contained on it.
- St. Vincent’s will assist parents and daycares in creating emergency plans for families and programs to ensure that there is a plan in place.
- Cindy shared a packet of information to each Council member and stressed that she is more than willing to speak at programs to families or to work with agency staff. It is targeted for children with special needs, but it should be applied to all children.
- Every child with an IEP should have a safety plan on a child’s IEP.
- There was significant discussion about the emergency planning process for parents and schools.
- Cindy’s contact information:
- Cindy Stramandinoli, Emergency Preparedness, Children with Special Health Care Needs
St. Vincent’s Special Needs Services

95 Merritt Boulevard
Trumbull, CT 06611
203-386-2743 cstamandinoli@stvincents.org

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, July 14th at Abilis (1150 Summer Street).

Addendum 1: Sacred Heart Report

- All 21 slots for School Readiness are filled.
- We are continuing our tours for prospective parents.
- Our Pre – K 4 class is filled at 20.
- Our Pre – K 3 class is slowed be filled with 6 children registered to date. We are waiting for contracts and a deposit for 7 other children.
- Our Kindergarten class has 10 registered students and are currently waiting for 3 other parents to return contracts and deposits.
- Our attendance for SHS has extremely high with very little illness.
- Staff for SHS have just recently signed contracts for 2010 – 2011 school year. All positions are filled at this time.
- All staff members are being evaluated at this time. Each staff member must help Director set goals for next school year.
- The Director continues to attend all AFP meetings as well as meet with Donna Delohery for guidance in NAEYC Accreditation.
- Pre- K 4 and Kindergarten students participated in an age appropriate Child Lure Program called “Think First – Stay Safe” on May 26th.
- All Pre – K 4 students have been screened for transition to Kindergarten. All assessment folders will be handed into Michele Sabia at a meeting set for June 14th.
- Our final day of the After School Program will be on Thursday, June 17th.
- Staff and students will host an End of Year Celebration and Kindergarten Graduation on Friday, June 18th. Parents are invited to attend with a reception afterwards.
- Our final day of school with be on Thursday, June 24th.
- Sacred Heart School summer office hours will be Monday – Friday, 8am – 12pm daily. The Director and Administrative Assistant will be taking some time off for vacation during the summer. There will be at least one person in the office during the summer months.

Addendum 2: CLC Report

School Readiness Council Report
Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.
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Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.

- I. Program Utilization
 - a. Authorized Capacity – Full Day – 334; Part Day – 98; Extended Day – 113 = 545
 - b. All slots filled = 100% Capacity
 - c. Children with disabilities = 37 with IEP
15 without IEP
 - d. Notes and Trends: N/A

- II. Program Attendance:
 - a. 100% Attendance
 - b. Notes and trends: - children are starting to withdraw for the summer months. Parents have older siblings at home, send to camp for a change prior to kindergarten. Family Service manager is trying to replace slots as children withdraw.

- III. Staffing
 - a. Open Positions – 1 Assistant Teacher – has been offered, will start upon completion of college courses.
 - b. Recruitment – ad on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC
 - c. Training:
 - Instructional Coordinators continue training staff on use of lesson plans.
 - Administrators received OSHA and DCF training.
 - Teaching staff received training “Review of Policies” and planning for the summer.

- IV. Special Events/Activities:
 - a. All classrooms went to the Maritime Center
 - b. Teacher Appreciation week was celebrated with a Teacher Breakfast sponsored by the Parent Advisory Council. Children and parents made special pictures that were put together in booklet form for all of the teachers.
 - c. Week of the Young Child: Two weeks of activities celebrating the children included a puppet show, ice cream party, and fabulous parade at the Stamford High School. The parade was led by volunteers from Westhill High School Band.
 - d. Open House Tours have been conducted for new families interested in enrolling their children for the 2010/2011 school year.
 - e. Lunch and Learn - “Kindergarten Readiness” presented by Dr. Debbie Schreiner and Dori Walker