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**NORTHEAST EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

**Monday, September 17th, 2018**

**5:30-7:00 p.m.**

**Putnam Elementary School**

**In Attendance:** Myra Ambrogi, Noveline Beltram, Patty Bryant, Patricia Buell, Rena Cadro, Bob Chenail, Kristine Cicchetti, Elizabeth DeConno, Lisa DeWitt, Amy Favreau, Diane Gozemba, William Hull, Tracy Johnson, MaryEllen Jones, Jennie Kapszukiewicz, Tom Kohl, Tammy Miner, Gail Lanza, Emily Ross, David Sizemore, Sally Sherman, Melinda Smith, Melanie Smith-Cervera, Barbara Teetrealt

New Guests: Sherry Guastini- Community Member, Rhiannon McCable – Access Agency, Jill Bourbeau – TEEG, Mark Weaver – Brooklyn Schools, Paula Graef – Brooklyn Schools

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Guest Speaker: Lisa DeWitt – United Services
3. Approval of last meeting minutes
4. School Readiness Updates
5. Regional Director Update
6. Regional Programing / Community Updates

Meeting called to order at 5:38 followed by welcome and introductions.

**Guest Speakers**: Lisa Dewitt - United Services – Child Guidance Clinic

Outpatient therapy for children (ages 3-17), adolescents and families, offices in Dayville, high trained masters and doctoral level clinicians. Behavioral health and substance Abuse treatments that include: Individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, psychological testing, Psychiatric evaluations and medical management. Uses evidence based treatment methods including: RTFT (Runification and Therapeutic Family Time), TF-CBT (Trauma-focused cognitive therapy), CFTSI (Child and Family traumatic stress intervention, MATCH Model, CBITS and the bounce back program.

New programs with a Clinician who specializes in groups: lots of group skills – will send flyers electronic to Krissy to send to NECC members.

**Contact Lisa DeWitt for more information at** **ldewitt@usmhs.com** **or 860-774-2020**

**Approval of last month’s minutes:**

Motion From Tammy to accept, Patty second – all in favor

**School Readiness Subcommittee:** Melanie reports re: subcommittee. They met prior to meeting and are looking at doing a K transition survey to parents in preschool program to see if they feel we have been helping prepare for transition. They are also looking into compiling a regional PD calendar and lastly will be making some changes to program report form, like taking off information on.

Programs do NAYAC surveys for staff (will share out). Monitoring visits start October. Diane asks if there are any thoughts of sharing turnover staff issues and qualifications. There is a section on the report out form which asks about staff, but Melanie will add that agenda for next subcommittee meeting.

**Regional Directors Report:**

Grant Updates:

Parent Leadership Grant - Complete! Completed training and graduated 7 parents in June – they collected over 800 children’s books to give back to community organizations in NE CT!

Parent Alumni Mini Grant – In progress. Received $3,000 mini grant to bring together past PEP alumni to work on a community project. First meeting on September 25th - details to follow!

Speakers for NECC Meetings:

November: Parent Educators Presentation: Home visitors presentation on what they do and how it impacts school districts

January: PATHCT.org - PATH Parent to Parent/Family Voices of Connecticut is a network of families providing informational and emotional support to others who have a child with developmental or health related needs. PATH/FVCT reaches out to help strengthen families coping with similar situations in Connecticut, and the organizations that serve them to reduce isolation, empower families as advocates for their children and reaffirm their values as parents and caregivers.

March: OPEN

Community Champion Award Dinner: 5 community organizations or individuals being recognized on October 18th at a dinner.

Website/Regional Resource Guide: Visit neccouncil.org – please send an email if you have any updated information that needs to be posted on website. Will be updating playgroup section. Email was sent out with flyer promoting the website and regional resource guide. Keep referring families to website and let Krissy know if you have information to update.

Task Force Updates: Mental Health – in the process of getting new chair, will be starting up in October. Attendance Task Force: First meeting October 2nd.

**Regional programs/community updates:**

Brooklyn School: Positions filled, 118 (3 on waiting list, 1 - 4 year old) staffing stayed the same. Visits prior to school starting, bus ride/visit around community. Preschool participated welcome back BBQ .

Putnam: Patty passed out newsletter, talked about changes and programs. Offering 4 part series for childcare professionals on supporting children and themselves through traumatic events and to lessen the negative impact on their physical, behavioral and mental health. Will email flyer to Council members.

Plainfield FRC – up and running - PAT teachers program picking up families (Attendance tri-fold went out to BASP families). Passed out newsletter.

TEEG – Jill B will be attending NECC meetings for TEEG. Their playgroup changed day/time, programs coming up. Passed out information

Killingly newsletter passed around and highlighted programs.

Mary Fisher: Program changes – have a long term sub in preschool. All other staff returned, NAYAC on horizon, now until November to prepare. Tools of the mind series getting trained with purposeful play.

St Joes school – Stefanie Default new preschool teacher, new principal (David Sizemore). All slots are full. Ice cream social, working on NAYAC with principal.

Diane: EASTCONN – new site at Mooseup Garden in Plainfield. Group that’s been meaning (NEAR) is offering a session called “addressing inequities” – brining mental health services to CT rural quiet corner. This will be Thursday, October 18th 8-12 am at EASTCONN. Target audience: Town Manager, First Selectman, BOE members, Superintendents, Educators, those interested in improving access to mental health services – no cost.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.: Motion by Pat Buell, Mark Weaver seconded

**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH BROOKLYN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**