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**NORTHEAST EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

**Monday, March 18, 2019**

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

**Mary Fisher Elementary**

**In Attendance:** Myra Ambrogi, Jill Bourbeau, Noveline Beltram, Patty Bryant, Patricia Buell, Rena Cadro, Bob Chenail, Kristine Cicchetti, Samantha Drobiak, Amy Favreau, Christine Gosselin, Paula Graef, Shannon Haney, MaryEllen Jones, Jennie Kapszukiewicz, Tom Kohl, Rhiannon McCabe, Anne Miller, Tammy Miner, Ryanne Rice, Emily Ross, Sally Sherman, Melanie Smith*-*Cervera, Melinda Smith, Barbara Teatreault, Mark Weaver

Guests: Diane Talbot, EASTCONN

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Guest Speaker: TEEG – Hand in Hand Program
3. Approval of last meeting minutes
4. School Readiness Updates
5. Parents As Teachers Update
6. Regional Director Update
7. Regional Programing / Community Updates

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

Addition to Agenda (and future agendas): Parents as Teachers Update

**Approval of last meeting minutes:**  Patty Buell makes motion to accept January Minutes, Seconded by Emily Ross – all in favor, no opposed.

**Guest Speaker: Anne Miller & Jill Bourbeau from TEEG:**

TEEG – Ex. Director Anne talks about the program Hand in Hand. A few years back a funder wanted to support a program to serve young parents and their infants to work on bonding with infants and parent, connecting them with community resources, and preparing them to be ready to become a student. We had worked with a variety of people (Janet Grendall) – working to find what we could do to meet the funders request - if we could they would fully fund the program. After a NECC meeting talking about our mentoring program and how it has impacted families, it dawned on us to model this new program on our mentoring program – serves to connect children back to their community. Began the program by hiring someone to identify what we would being doing (make sure it’s measurable), began by talking about Thompson schools. Knowing families move in and out – can we expand to other towns (Pomfret, Woodstock, Putnam). Program takes place outside of home (can go into home for intake) – bring people out and connect to activities within the community. If they are compliant and participating – they get diapers and wipes for month. If they need transportation, that can be provided (mentor’s miles are part of grant). Groups of parents can come together in playgroups (library and other public programs). Once 6 months in program and successful they can get a YMCA membership. To date, 10 families have been funded for 4 years. More money from funder, can now service up 15 families – may be hiring part time mentor soon. Have clinical oversight with social worker.

Great flexibility, we’ve had a few moms that have no way to get out (we have given rides to doctors), the YMCA has been a huge benefit. We’ve helped mom get apartment. Sometimes it’s just doing something with them to break the ice and get them involved.

When looking to fill more spots, we had to think “how do you recruit?” Talked to Pediatricians, but that didn’t work. We’ve have got referrals NFN, diaper bank. No income qualifications.

1. Question: More towns – thoughts about expanding? Answer: Could be a possibility.
2. Question: what are the outcome measures? Answer: through ASQ’s right now. TEEG mentions the Center for the developing child – they have written to them to ask for scholarship to work with them on measureable outcomes.
3. Question: are Families asked to do depression screening? Answer: yes. Sue is licensed clinical counselor – so she can work with them until they get services.
4. Question: Is there a mentoring curriculum? Answer: Yes, Setting goals, activities for goals, also working with national quality mentoring survey right now.
5. What if they are homeless – residing in Danielson? Answer: Contact Anne
6. What if we have a family in mind, but they are not in one of your towns. Answer: Contact Anne with within a week if there’s any families that you have in mind (a little story or background) so Anne can get to funder with needs.

Grant allows for 4 hours of mentoring each month with each family. It has been awesome to developing program and watching it grow.

**School Readiness Grant Application Questions:**

We write a community grant for each town: Please see agenda attachment for questions, if you have any feedback, please respond by end of the day next Friday the 29th to Melanie any feedback to the questions presented.

Quality Enhancement grant ($3,381 each town, Putnam gets $6,427) – community grant. At subcommittee meeting, program’s shared how they will be spending money (PD for staff – requiring 15 hours of PD next year). Programs to run workshops, hire subs for staff to attend PD, other pieces – monitoring requirements and family involvement. Regional PD plan – trying to narrow down a date for all towns since they don’t share same PD dates. Could even bring in a speaker – 2 early childhood topics a year.

School Readiness grants - all went to bid with legal notices and posted on Council website – one outside person for Brooklyn and Killingly inquired – due on March 29th. The process for grant – noon on March 29th to EASTCONN – 3 readers for each grant (all EC professionals). April meeting to be voted on.

Questions: Do we need approval for community grant? Answer: no. Hoping to be done by next meeting

**Monitoring visits – between this meeting and last meeting.**

Thompson: Mary Fisher program – put more detail in LEP’s and St. Joe’s – have a few things (apply for accreditation, non-sectarian policy). Mary fisher is re-accredited.

Putnam: 1/30 – everything is going well, new staff member to complete CPR/registry and new audit once filed.

Sterling 2/15 – new staff member to registry and also had to give registry.

Plainfield – 2 sites FRC 2/6 – no action plan items, Plainfield Shepard Hill 2/6 – several recommendations – but plan in place and they are completing items.

Brooklyn – 3/14 – they are in process of streaming processes to collect paperwork, etc. for registration this week. PD plan

Killingly – 3/12 para needed a PD plan and registry updated.

There are a few more scheduled, will update next meeting. Program reports are attached to the agenda.

**Parents as Teachers – update:** few months ago presented at NECC meeting. Have been meeting the past few months - going to invite other regional parents as teacher to meeting. Will cover the topics and issues and update at future meetings.

**Regional Directors Update:** Attendance task force is holding a “Improving student attendance school district forum” on 4/9 in Putnam from 8:00-11:00 am. All schools are invited to attend. Regional guide has been updated to include McKinney Vento Homeless information – can print the current guide from the home page of our website. Mental Health Task force is meeting again in April on the 10th.

**Community Updates:**

**Tom from Lions**: March 30, 2019 10-2 the Killingly Quiet Corner Reginal Lions club will be holding a “Top off our trailer” food drive to support Friends of Assisi Food Pantry. The drive will be held at Aldi’s in Dayville and on March 31st at Stop and Shop from 10-2 p.m.

On April 4th the club will be holding a membership drive. QVCC a 7 p.m. in room W106. Informational presentation and light refreshments will be served. Call or email if you want to learn more 860-774-5185 or tomekohl@gmail.com

April 7th, President Tom Kohl will have his head shaved as part of a fundraising project for St. Baldrick’s Pediatric Cancer Research fund. Donations can be made at [www.stbaldricks.org/donate/participant/1025865/2019](http://www.stbaldricks.org/donate/participant/1025865/2019)

**Myra from Plainfield:** Thanks to Council members for the backpacks that she was looking for!

**EASTCONN: Adult Education** - Starting a new program – Walmart has given ½ million dollars to service (unemployed and under employed) hosting workshops on customer service skills, reading boot camp and 3 different workshops. Will have childcare and transportation. More information to follow.

 **Putnam**: Hosting Mean behavior/peer pressure/Bullying workshop – Patty will forward flyer.

Motion to adjourn at 6:55 made by Tom Kohl and seconded by Patty Buell