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**NORTHEAST EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

**Monday September 16, 2019**

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

**Putnam Middle School Café**

**In Attendance:** Myra Ambrogi, Jill Bourbeau, Noveline Beltram, Patty Bryant, Patricia Buell, Rena Cadro, Kristine Cicchetti, Bob Chanail, Ashley Fourneir, Paula Graef, Therese Horvath, Tracy Johnson, MaryEllen Jones, Jennie Kapszukiewicz, Tom Kohl, Gail Lanza, Kim Merchant, Emily Ross, David Siezemore, Sally Sherman, Melanie Smith*-*Cervera, Melinda Smith, Dan Sullivan, Barbara Teatreault, Mark Weaver

Guests: Lesley Munshower- Thompson Recreation, Rick Hayes – State Rep District 51, Anne Dauphinais – State Rep District 44, Ken Beausoleil – Thompspon First Selectman, Sheyla Ramos – Access Agency, Lori Bergstrom- United, Jen Snyder – EASTCONN Headstart, Tara Brissette – Thompson, Amy St. Onge – Board of Selectman Thompson, Rick Ives – Brooklyn Selectman, Lynne Paglione – EASTCONN Adult Ed

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of last meeting minutes
3. Overview of NECC: Accomplishments, Task Force Update, School Readiness, What’s Next
4. NECC Goals
5. Regional Programing / Community Updates

Meeting called to order at 5:33 followed by welcome and introductions.

**Approval of last meeting minutes:**

Motion made to accept minutes by Gail Lanza, Seconded Myra Ambrogi, all in favor – no opposed.

**Overview of NECC:**

Krissy reviews packet that was handed out with agenda. This include the most recent NECC Brochure, accomplishments handout regional guide and attendance brochure. Highlights on what the current task forces are working on, NECC accomplishments over the last few years and what’s next for the NECC this year.

Regional guide is a free downloadable/printable document than should be used with any families through our partners. Krissy asks if anyone has updated information for the guide to contact her – we update the guide a few times a year.

School Readiness: Melanie, Emily and Maryellen (School Readiness Liaisons) reviews the school readiness hangout in agenda packet. Discusses the objectives and overview of the program and what each municipality is currently receiving. Discusses eligibility, program types and requirements.

NECC Goals: Superintendent Buell discusses the strategic planning process the council took with a strategic planning meeting this summer. Reviewed the proposed priorities and goals found on page 12 in agenda. Council members spent a half hour breaking into groups for each priority to share feedback and suggestions. Groups shared out at the end.

**Priority #1: Supporting the transition to pre-school/kindergarten by supporting the developmental continuum of birth through eight.**

Goal #1: Improving transition for families and students to preschool and Kindergarten (SR Committee).

Goal #2: Improve School Attendance (Attendance Task Force)

Goal #3: Develop Outreach & Education Plan (around closing the preparation gap for
Birth – Age 3).

Group Share-out:

* Educate the parent early
* Parent Mentors – parents work with others to support school attendance
* Invite B-3 people (providers, etc) to participate on task forces
* Connect with other ELC agencies to develop transition planning
* Connect with Pediatricians / Doctors re: screenings, invite them to the Council
* John the Health Kids Day at YMCA in Putnam
* Attendance tips to help parents get children ready for school
* Screening Fairs – bring them back
* Affordable childcare, wrap around to ½ day
* Connect to family home daycares for transition and support

**Priority #2: Increase awareness & trainings for parents/staff around Trauma, Poverty, Mental Health & Social Justice Issues**

Goal #1: Provide Professional development for faculty, staff and families

Goal #2: Continue to provide opportunities for professionals to attend Mental Health Task Force meetings

Group Share-out:

* Resource Data base – programs and support groups
* Bilingual resources – translation resources
* Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence
* Access to transportation
* Connections with DKH
* Needs assessment at registration
* Long waiting lists (child first and Triple P)
* Poverty: lack of resources, lack of awareness
* Putnam offers workshops that are well attended – ask them what’s working and replicate regionally
* Parent Training – how to communicate with schools and building relationships
* Screening questionnaires with prek and K registrations – are schools using ASQ’s?
* Continue with ACES series – there are 3 moves in series?
* Way to reach parents with early childhood information: Real-estate agencies, town halls, food pantries
* How do we get parents to share what’s happening at home (behaviors) prior to school starting to help with transitions
* and services

**Priority #3: Engage existing and new partners to build capacity of the NECC**

Goal #1: (new) Increasing awareness, support and advocacy around early childhood

Goal #2: Leverage resources and funding – based on the needs of the priorities 1 & 2

* Regional early childhood fair to increase awareness of available programs
* More $$$ - More slots, summer programs, home visiting
* Currently good representation of towns, including town officials. Continue to get information to folds even when they cannot make meetings, etc.
* Rotating meeting sites is good for engagement
* Advocate for additional spots for preschool (full day spots)
* Recruit FRC home visitors to attend
* Invite student studying early childhood to meetings – great resource for task forces
* Internship opportunity for QVCC and Eastern

**Regional Programing / Community Updates**

Lions – Screening in Brooklyn Walmart coming up

TEEG – Youth Service Bureau just got approved - contact Anne Miller / Jill Bourbeau

Plainfield – NFN (Circle of Security – 7 week program) – will send flyer for distribution

EASTCONN: Professional Development (go nap sack –nutrition) program

TEEG – playgroup, hand and hand program

YMCA: Week of Christmas (winter camp) Healthy Kids Day in April and school readiness table

See resource table at the end of the meeting for handouts on the above.

Motion to adjourn: Patty, Seconded by Melinda at 6:50 p.m.