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**NORTHEAST EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

**Monday, November 16, 2020**

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

**ZOOM Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Myra Ambrogi, Paul Brenton, Jill Bourbeau, Patty Bryant, Patricia Buell, Rena Cadro, Robert Chanail, Kristine Cicchetti, Ian Harrington, Lisa Girard, Diane Gozemba, MaryEllen Jones, Jennie Kapszukiewicz, Gail Lanza, Tammy Miner, Lesley Munshower, Emily Ross, Chris Rosati-Randall, Sally Sherman, Melinda Smith, Melanie Smith*-*Cervera, Barbara Tetreault, Mark Weaver

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. School Readiness Updates
3. Guest Speaker: Ian Harrington
4. NECC Updates- Regional Director / Vote
5. Regional Programing / Community Updates

**Welcome:**

Introductions (name and organization)

**School Readiness Updates:**

When programs move from in-person to hybrid or full remote, the Council leadership needs to be alerted and the OEC needs to be updated on what plan the program is using (all programs had to submit a plan for each model). We are tracking this process on a google drive spreadsheet in the shared google drive. Liasions send an email to Leadership that a change has been made on the spreadsheet and alert OEC. The spreadsheet has a tab for each community so we can track data.

Monitoring Visits:  these happen with each program and reports are reviewed with leadership team for feedback.  This year, programs are given the option of in person or virtual (virtual requires more work on the programs end to provide documents, etc.)   We created a form if programs choose virtual option so they knew what exactly has to be done.

Brooklyn just completed their visit virtually; we were able to stream into the classroom for the classroom visits.  Plainfield, Putnam and Sterling will be coming up.

Thompson just completed virtual visits. A lead teacher was appointed to compile all relevant documents to the monitor, lessons were recorded and sent to monitor for review, etc.

Program Updates

Killingly:   We are hybrid (in-person) model.   Enrollment is much lower than normal – currently at 91 (usually much higher).    We have seen a need from parents to have school day slots (vs. part day).  We have requested to make those slots full day to accommodate the needs of families.     One success we would like to share is the increased use of outdoor classroom space – we are using this way more than usual and seeing great outcomes.  We added more materials and kids are engaged and it has been very successful.

Plainfield:  We have all 14 of 18 slots filled (capped it at 14 this year).   Started year in person, have since moved to all remote since November 13th – could continue to December 3rd.  We are continuing to engage virtually with morning circles, etc.     Prior to closing had bought machines to sterilize all books and toys.

Brooklyn:  We started hybrid, moved to full in person a few weeks ago, it is going well.   64 children in the program, 13 are full distant learning.     Holding virtual Parent teacher conferences, Lions club coming to do vision screening.  We added sensory activities in the hallways to help kids stay socially distanced.  Staff completed trainings around CPR and Diversity.

Sterling: We are 5 days in person (since the beginning of the year), 1 student fully remote.  21 of the 24 slots are filled.  We are holding virtual parent teacher conferences next week.   Completed trainings with EASTCONN.

Putnam:  We just finished restructuring our cohorts to less than 10, this required opening 1 more full day class.  Had to redistribute staff as well as after school program.  We are 5 days a week in person (7 students in full remote).  Similar to Killingly, we are finding a need for more school day slots.  Hosted literacy training virtually, 22 people attended.  We are in the process of scheduling more virtual trainings.   Holding holiday giving – drive through this year (see newsletter in google drive)

Thompson:  Funded spots filled are 19 out of 20.  Distance learning: 4.  Teachers are providing both onsite and distance learning for students using our Tools of the Mind Virtual classrooms and Google Classroom. Parent/Teacher conferences were held Nov 4th & 5th through zooms. Pre-K & K staff will be needing recertification for First Aid & CPR by Jan 2021 for NAEYC.   Kids are doing great with mask wearing!

School Readiness QE Grants:   all towns have been awarded funding to be used the same as last year.  Grant money to be used for professional development and materials during this time.

**Guest Speaker:**

Ian Matthew Harrington, Community Outreach & Resource Coordinator - Community Engagement
The Access Community Action Agency, 1315 Main Street Willimantic, CT 06226
Email: ianmatthew.harrington@accessagency.org
Phone: 860-884-8362, Cell: 860-341-1757

Ian is the Community Resource Coordinator covering region 4 (Windham and Tolland). His role is to reach out to people who have tested positive for COVID and provide them with resources to make sure that they can more comfortably abide their isolation or quarantine period.

The process consists of his accessing the ContaCT system real-time data to learn where there are needs-gaps. This Department of Health data comes from contract tracers asking outbound patients who need to quarantine if they would like to receive resources. Those seeking assistance are referred through the ContaCT system to the Community Resource Coordinators (e.g. Ian in our area). Resources vary depending on the needs of individual: assistance with expenses, heating, getting groceries delivered, setting them up in a hotel for a few days so they can isolate away from family who is not sick, etc.. The goal is to wrap them in services to help them during the time they have to be quarantined due to being sick with COVID and give them what they need so they don’t need to leave the house during that time.   Ian also provides them with information on other community resources/programs that pertain to the client’s areas of need.

**Regional Director Updates:**

Regional Guide Distribution: Process of mailing out guides to community partners in our 6 towns like doctors’ offices, realtors, town halls, police departments, childcare facilities and community partners.

Fine Motor Skills Activity Bags: Finished making all the bags, have a few more deliveries to make – we were able to give out 300 of these kits for distribution with our community partners to families with young children.

Mental Health Task Force (MHTF) Update: Had our first virtual meeting in September, new co-chairs (Dawne and Ashlyn from Thompson). Ruth from Peace at Home was a guest speaker. Next meeting is this Thursday, flyer was emailed out to Council members. If you would like to be on the MHTF list serve, please let me know.

Website Update: Krissy updated the recent events section of website to include accomplishments from grant funding and pictures of kids using activity bags.

Grant Updates: Announcement came out that there will be another opportunity to apply for funding through strengthening local early childhood collaborations – this grant will be for a year. Not sure when the RFP is coming out however.

Voting on Strategic Plan:     Plan was sent to members prior to meeting and reviewed at meeting.    Motion made by Tammy Miner to approve plan as presented, seconded by Myra Ambrogi, no further discussion, all in favor – no opposed, no abstentions.  Motion passes

**Community Program Updates:**

Myra in Plainfield:   Hosting virtual playgroups (see newsletter in google drive for more information).      Coat and toy drive starting soon.

Christine Rosati-Randall: Nurturing Families Network:  Currently holding parent visits both in-person (outdoor) and virtually.  These are free, easy to enroll.  Have a fathering group as well, please contact Chris Rosati (see flyers in google drive for more information)

Diane Gozemba: EASTCONN:  there is currently openings in early head start and offering remote services.  Birth – 3 services are remote if town is in red.    Received some funding to offer 4 different topics for professional development that will run November through January.   Will forward more information.

Emily Ross: Community Outreach- Killingly - Tommy Toy Fund sign-ups happening soon – they will be virtual this year (see flyer in google drive).          Salvation Army is looking for volunteer bell ringers, 90% of what is collected goes back to Brooklyn and Killingly community.    The Angel tree (It's at the Brooklyn Walmart), will have tags on the tree by Saturday.  People take a tag and purchase the items on them, I pick up on the 15th of December to deliver to families.

Jill Bourbeau – TEEG:   Hand in Hand program is expanding (this is a family mentoring program).   Currently holding in person playgroups Wednesday & Friday’s from 9-11 (see flyers in google drive).

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:02 by Jennie K, Chris R

Please don’t forget to forward any resources, flyers or information you would like shared.
Mark Your Calendar: NECC Meeting Schedule – Zoom Link will be sent the week before each meeting:

Monday, January 25th
Monday, March 15th
Monday, May 3rd