****

**NORTHEAST EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

**Monday, September 21, 2020**

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

**ZOOM Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Myra Ambrogi, Cara Blackington, Paul Brenton, Patty Bryant, Patricia Buell, Rena Cadro, Mrs. Case, Kristine Cicchetti, Linda Colangelo, Kevin Cunningham, Roberta Davis, Jessica Fitch, Ashley Fournier, Ian Harrington, Lisa Girard, Paula Graef, MaryEllen Jones, Jennie Kapszukiewicz, Gail Lanza, Tammy Miner, Michelle Nye, Larry Prentis, Emily Ross, Chris Rosati-Randall, Sally Sherman, Melinda Smith, Judy Smith, Melanie Smith*-*Cervera, Barbara Tetreault, Mark Weaver, Kim Wood,

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. Guest Speaker: Linda Colangelo, NDDH
3. School Readiness Updates
4. NECC Updates- Regional Director
5. Regional Programing / Community Updates

**Welcome:**

Review of Agenda and online meeting protocols. Introductions (name and organization)

**Guest Speaker: Linda Colangelo - NDDH**

First, NDDH appreciates all partners, the average person doesn’t fully understand the enormous challenges schools and all staff are facing as they are out doing this noble work. Thousands of documents with guidance have had to be addressed and many changes over the last several months, the task of going through the process and getting it to local levels was and is huge - a big thank you!

NDDH is working with Generations (from funding from Cares Act) and have developed back to school messaging for children PreK-grade 5.  Norm the dog will teach things that have not changed since onset of COVID 19 re: wearing mask, social distancing, washing hands, keeping hands away from face, drinking water (don’t share drinks) and go for a walk.   In addition to the messaging, you can download coloring sheets (in both English and Spanish).  Good resources for parents and children.  PSA by at Pete Nichols, there is an adoption program with certificate to display.   Other resource links: Scrub Club, Ready Wrigley Flu Club, etc. Visit [www.normthedog.org](http://www.normthedog.org) for more information and to download above resources.

 Second Phase – Hip Hop Video

NDDH and Generations have teamed up again to produce a hip-hop song and music video to promote mask-wearing among middle-school to college-age youths. Please see the attached press release for more information and publicity shot for social media posting.

“[Mask It Up](http://bit.ly/GenHealthMaskItUp)”features Zack Kindall, a 20-year old recording artist based out of Connecticut and a former student-athlete at Eastern Connecticut State University .In addition to the song and music video, a virtual dance contest with celebrity judges is also being planned by Generations and [WILI-FM Hit Music i98.3](https://www.hitmusici983.com/), so stay tuned for more information. The “Mask It Up”music video can be viewed for free at: <http://bit.ly/GenHealthMaskItUp>. To find out more about this project and download the song, go to <https://genhealth.org/maskitup>.

If you have any questions, please contact Allison W. Heneghan, Director of Communications and Development for Generations Family Health Center at [aheneghan@genhealth.org](mailto:aheneghan@genhealth.org).

Vaccinations: never in our time has the subject of vaccinations ever been so important to stay strong and keep millions safe.    Now is the season to get the flu shot – NDDH will be holding clinics for first responders now and in November will be public clinics.

Question: Can NDDH share “norm” clipart if schools or programs want to use the image on social media or websites to link to NDDH?

* Linda will share image with NECC

Question: Has there been an update on when schools should send kids home with symptoms? Sending lots of kids home for just a runny nose. Heard that kids should have 2 symptoms before sending home?

* School nurses should be speaking with public health nurse.  Discussion around top tier (fever, chills, smell/taste loss, coughing) look for those first, then other symptoms, however, it’s very individual for students.

Comment from Linda: NDDH needs to have school principal contact information (email and phone) for proper chains of communication should there be a positive case. Please send that information to NDDH if you have not already. Tomorrow is the first day of fall, great time to remind people of National Fall Prevention Month!

**School Readiness Updates:**

Melanie explains the School Readiness grant for those who are new to NECC. Typically, at meetings each program submits a report for review and questions. Seeing as this is the first meeting and we have new people; each program is presenting a quick update as each one looks different. Update: Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is requiring children to wear masks in program - starting the process now, deadline by October 19th for pre-k.

Brooklyn:  New K, Pre-k and special ed teacher. Opened in hybrid model, we did have meet and greet and a virtual open house per grade level and with individual teachers as well.     Working on some social emotional PD for entire staff.   One remote learning Teacher in pre-k and K (little different), special ed teachers are case managers for sp. Ed (this is different), staff done excellent job connecting with families.

Killingly:  61/66 funded slots are filled, our enrollment is down compared to previous years – wait list for 3 year old’s as they don’t want to come to next year, parents are opting to keep home.  People waiting to see how things are going, some people are calling to enroll now.     Virtual home visits, and open house.   Preschool is in all 5 days

Plainfield:  Readiness program funded for 18 (keeping at 14), still about 13 on wait list, but has mentioned we did have 6 families refuse to take slot due to COVID with restrictions.   We have done tour of classroom virtual, enrollment virtually, meet teacher virtually (have been open since July 6th).   With all the modifications, the kids have adjusted and are enjoying school.   Jessica Fitch – our enrollment has been down, theres’ fluctioning with students who are switching (hybrid model).   Readiness kids attend 4 days (virtual 1).    Preschool has moved from Shepard Hill to Preschool Center.

Putnam:  Reopened June 29th, we’ve been wearing masks since then – open 5 days a week for preschool.  Provide breakfast, lunch, supper and snacks.  Meals for 7 days a week for distant learning kids.   Staff childcare program for staff who kids have hybrid schedule.  Prior to opening, offered virtual tours and greets with teachers.

Sterling: Open August 31st, in person 5 days with am/pm sessions (although we have shortened sessions to 2 ½ hour), snack to go.    Same staff in program, a bit less enrollment (20 total – 10/10), 1 family who is remote.   Started wearing masks from day one – filled 20 of the 24 slots.     Working on SEL and routines and transitions.     Keeping students co-horted through centers and using playground (new procedures).  Virtual back to school night last week.

Thompson:  17 out of 20 slots filled for school readiness.   No staffing changes, PD tools of the mind curriculum and google classroom.   Running full 5 days on site, some have chosen to distant learn.       Virtually meet and Greet for prek-k, kids are doing great with wearing masks.

**NECC Updates:**

LECC Grant Accomplishments since last meeting

* Printed Regional Guides: Over the next few months will be delivering copies of the guides to community partners – if you would like some, please send me an email (digital version is on our website, main page down the bottom)
* Fine Motor Skills Activity Bag – this was an idea that came from our January Council meeting where partners shared that children were coming to school unprepared with fine motor skills due to many factors, including use of technology. With the grant money we developed a handout with information and activities. Purchased the supplies to complete 300 of these bags. We are in the process of getting these bags out to our community partners to give to families with children birth-5 through distribution at places like: diaper banks, community stores, WIC, parent educators, etc….
* Peace At Home Subscription: We still have 3 months left with the subscription for free online parenting classes for families and family servicing professionals in our towns – sent out the revised flyer for organizations to share.
* New through peace at home – starting a professional’s consultation group to meet once a month – live, interactive online consultation sessions for professionals serving families in our towns. Professionals are invited to seek support and consultation related to their work with parents. A flyer will be coming out next week with details – please share with your staff.

NECC 3 year strategic plan: Leadership met last week to relook at the goals, given the pandemic, we had to make some changes to timelines and updated some goals - will be sending that out to the group next week for feedback. One thing we would like to do is hold online “coffee and conversations” with parents around specific topics as a way to engage with families to make connections and seek parent voices on our council. Please keep an eye out on a flyer for that over the next few weeks as we finalize details for that.

Accomplishments/Success Stories: sent an email last week asking everyone to share any success stories/accomplishments they have experienced since last March as way to share all the positives to our council members. Please submit any you have to Kris via email by October 2nd.

**Community Sharing:**

Nurturing Families Network (DayKimball):   Fathering program (John) works with other dads – Free program, no income eligible, no health insurance needed.   Does a lot of work around developmental milestones, parent and child bonding – others can attend.  Some outdoor visits weather permitting.      Call 860-428-0444 for more information.

Ian Harrington:  Community Resource Coordinator with Access Agency. As the new Community Resource Coordinator for Windham and Tolland County, my work involves IDing and closing COVID gaps so that those at risk can comfortably quarantine or isolate as appropriate. Part of doing that work well, is knowing the right people and making sure the right people know me as a resource to help those struggling with COVID or resources. Currently get referrals through the contact tracers through department of health. Ian’s contact information Ian at [ianmatthew.harrington@accessagency.org](mailto:ianmatthew.harrington@accessagency.org)

YMCA: Could not attend meeting, flyer for program in shared folder.

Family Playgroups: Plainfield, Killingly and TEEG’s calendars are in resource folder being shared.

Meeting adjourned: 7:10 p.m.

**Please don’t forget to forward any resources, flyers or information you would like shared with members.**

**Mark Your Calendar: NECC Meeting Schedule – Zoom Link will be sent the week before each meeting:**

**Monday, November 16thMonday, January 25th   
Monday, March 15th   
Monday, May 3rd**