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**NORTHEAST EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

**Monday, March 14, 2022**

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

**ZOOM Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Robert Angeli, Myra Ambrogi, Candace Anderson, Lori Bergstrom, Health Black, Kayla Burgess, Patty Buell, Patty Bryant, Rena Cadro, Stephanie Hynes, Kristine Cicchetti, Paula Graef, Abby Porieir (YMCA), MaryEllen Jones, Kristen Hempel, Jennie Kapszukiewicz, Tammy Miner, Heather Nickerson, Laurence Prentiss, Erin Rhault, Christine Rosati Randall, Melinda Smith, Sally Sherman, Melanie *Smith-*Cervera, Barbara Tetreault, Mark Weaver,

Parent Ambassadors: Rene Toper, Brian Snyder, Kelley Robbins
Guest Speakers: Dr. Stein

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Guest Speaker: Dr. Revit Stein
3. School Readiness Updates
4. NECC Updates- Regional Director
5. Regional Programing / Community Updates

**Guest Speaker:**

Dr. Ravit Stein, a licensed psychologist, certified school psychologist, and behavior analyst (BCBA) and she shared information on the importance of developing evening/bedtime routines to support school attendance and maximize student engagement. A Home Routine Checklist was reviewed with meeting attendees, and recommendations to support families in strengthening current routines and/or implementing new routines will be shared.

When strengthening and building habits and routines at home:

* Start SMALL. Tiny habits can be grown into larger habits over time.
* Think about routines that are ENJOYABLE in your family life. Remember: Sameness is soothing. What are some ways that current routines can be applied to other times/settings to increase structure and predictability (both factors are aligned with resilience)!
* Instead of trying a new routine, commit to MAINTENANCE of a current routine that already exists and brings joy to the family. Consider habits and routines that are ALREADY in place! What is going well? How can we connect new habits/routines onto ones that already exist in our family.
* Try HABIT STACKING. Add something new to a current routine.
* When developing a new evening/bedtime routine, PRACTICE the new routine at other times to build comfort and fluency.

The presentation can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/688973047>

**School Readiness Updates:**

Melanie updates the group – school readiness grant has gone out with a legal notice so programs have requested RFP which are due end of this week. Once complete an submitted the liaisons have created a reader panel to review and will present at our next meeting. Quality enhancement dollars are available, we will apply to use some the funds regionally for PD. Regional collaboration agreements part of the program is to collaborate with outside programs, tis regional appropriate. Community grant has some narrative questions that the liaisons are drafting.

Program Updates:Communities submitted reports to Council, no updates that impact regional programs.

Bylaws: The leadership team has been meeting and will continue to meet over the next month to amend our bylaws. Looking to restructure the council a little bit to be in alignment with the school readiness policies. We will be working on that and will bring it suggested amendments to the next meeting. As we are a regional council and our membership is large, by restructuring so we are in alignment should make the meetings more efficient for those who don’t have school readiness grant funding, so you’re not having to sit through the business of school readiness at these meetings. We have created an org chart that we will include in an orientation packet for new members.

**Regional Director& Staff updates:**

Parent Leadership Grant Award: We are moving this training virtually; this is the first time.  Flyer is out there.  Taking applications through Feb. 7th.  10-Week training starts on March 4th for 10 weeks. Working on some of the dynamics to offer this virtually. Will update members at next meeting

Mental Health Task Force: Next Tuesday, March 22nd, guest speaker Robin Fox with be presenting on co-regulating with presence. Meeting 9-10:30 a.m. bi-monthly. Let us know if you want to be included in that list serve. Project: SEL Kits for families, created a survey to engage the community/business in the project.

LECC Grant: Got an email today that the grant RFP came out and there will be some additional funding to support staff and projects through December 2022. OEC Parent cabinet meeting took place last month with our PA’s.

Early Learning Kits: Remaining funding allowed us to build another 30 kits, we have given out 180 kits to date. Sent survey to parents, received 30 positive surveys’ back. Have not promoted the project lately as we are out of supplies, will see if any additional grant funding come in to continue this.

**Community Programs Sharing:**

Jeannie K from Headstart: we are currently enrolling in our five-week summer program, that is for currently enrolled children. Applications for all of our fall programs we have a site in Killingly, Putnam, Plainfield for prenatal to age three in our homebase programs. These are in Tolland & Windham County - those applications can be done right now with immediate openings.

Plainfield Family Resource Center - Openings in our Connecticut childcare for safe class for childcare providers, contact Myra for more information.

Kristen Hempel - Adult Education for EASTCONN: Our adult education programs are in full swing this semester but we have recently opened up new classes because the demand for virtual, If you know anyone who is looking for things like English language, high school completion or digital literacy, please send them to us.

Erin at TEEG: We are offering a budgeting class through bank Hometown on March 2rd, there’s still spots available for that. I started a mom support group and it meets the first and third Wednesday of every month (two days from now) - need to register in advance erinr@teegonline.org

Stephanie Hynes – NDDH Health department - We’re going back out in the community to do vaccine clinics in the next couple weeks. We still have our standing ones on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 2 and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 6 at the senior center. This Wednesday we’re going to Sterling Townhall and Friday we’re going up to Thompson school. April 4th - 9th is national public health week and on the 6th we’re going to be hosting two walks in Putnam at 6:30 in the morning and one at 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon.

Kelly (on behalf of United Services) – Running a “Circle of Security” training. The program is based on how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened. There are video examples of secure and problematic parent/child interactions, healthy options in care-giving and animated graphics designed to clarify principles of COSP. The program implements decades of attachment research in an

accessible step-by-step process for use in group settings, home visitation, or individual counseling. Contact Lori at United Services for More information.

Superintendent Patricia Buell – there’s a homeless program coordinated through TEEG, there are a lot of things happening around educating people about homelessness and what supports are out there. It’s really powerful group and we attend these meetings once a month, trying to do things locally as well as at the state level. Reach out to Superintendent Bull or Anne Miller at TEGG.

Guest Speakers Ideas: If anyone has idea on who you want for a guest speaker, please let me know.

* **If anyone has flyers or events to share, please forward to Kris.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

**UPCOMING COUNCIL ZOOM MEETINGS:**

Monday, May 2nd