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**NORTHEAST EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

**Monday, November 7, 2022**

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

**ZOOM Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Patty Buell, Jenny, B. Tetreault, Erin Rhault, Christine Rosati Randall, Jessica Duffy, Melissa Kennedy, Rhianna McCabe, Paula Graef, Ellen Jones, Lisa Girard, Cathy Lane, Kelly Robbins, Sally Sherman, Ali Lacey, Diane Cook, Melanie Smith Cerva, Kayla Burgess, Stephanie B, Emily Ross, Keely McAlister, Courtney Langlois, Shannon Haney, Stephanie Hughes, Sandar Assonowitz, Patty Bryant, Sara Gustovan, Robert Angeli

Guest Speakers: Ali Lacey, UCFS in Norwich -

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Guest Speaker:
3. NECC Updates- Regional Director
4. Regional Programming / Community Updates
5. School Readiness Meeting

**Guest Speaker:**

Ali Lacey, UCFS in Norwich, is an early childhood consultant working for a program managed out of Middletown, a statewide, state-funded program – been around for about 20 years. As been in the position for ten years, all MA-level mental health professionals serve as consultants to any provider of children ages 0 to 5. Serve any child in a childhood setting. Provide services to preschools, daycares, and anyone caring for a childhood 0-5 in an environment other than their home.

Ali covers all of Eastern CT from Stonington to Killingly. CHR has the other contract and covers the other towns in the NECC. The service offered includes child-specific services, classroom services, etc. New services since COVID are phone consultation (level 1 or 2 services), ideas, strategies, and follow-up strictly through phone services.

Not a treatment program; it's early intervention and prevention. A significant portion of the role is to know area resources to be able to provide resources. Core classroom service is where we partner with staff to observe. This helps take a snapshot of where the classroom is using SEL strategies. Where are the strengths, and where can they improve? Help develop an action plan with goals and strategies to implement in the whole classroom vs. one specific child. We look at the structure, routines, schedules, transitions, etc.....…. anything that helps the teacher increase capacity to teach SEL skills. We do eight support visits after. The goal is to identify children (1 or 2) who might benefit from strategies specific to them, including parent partnership and home visits.

Child Specific Services include home visits which help to see how the child functions with family, giving us time to see how parents interact with the child and vice versa. Action plan to follow to help the child be more successful at home and in school and two support visits and a one-month follow-up visit. We also do referrals to other providers that the child may benefit from (OT, PT, etc.). About 50% make progress and don't need any referrals.

Question: What is the waitlist time? Answer: It changes depending on the need, we also triage, so if there is a referral for a child or a center or program that has never used our services, we try to get in as soon as possible.

We offer a few other things: Community-Based Training (Virtually), day or evenings during the week.

Question: Is there a list of training done or will be done? In addition, we offer mental health consult groups for family providers, looking at a January MH Consult group to talk about problem-solving, strategies, recommendations, resource sharing, etc...….

**Staff Updates from Kris & Chris:**

Outreach:

We are continuing with outreach in community events that are happening. We attended a local business wellness fair and employee appreciation day. We've completed one event in each community and one in each school's open house.

Sparker:

We received an $18,000 grant from now through February to conduct outreach to families, get them to sign up to use the Sparkler app to track a child's development, and use the Ages and Stages questionnaire. I attended an event in Hartford; all communities have created a dashboard and assigned someone to monitor the dashboard information – we have training this Thursday for the dashboard users.

Cook Center – Mental Health Family Night

Another event is scheduled for November from 8:00-9:00 p.m. (EST); people must register before getting the zoom link. It will say 7:00 p.m. when you register because it's Central time. We are asking any schools or agencies to post their Medallion that links to parentguidance.org

Leadership Grant Award: We received the grant and will hold a Spring training, more information to follow.

Strategic Planning Parent Survey: We have 140 parents who have completed it, leaving it open for another week, and then we will review the data with Leadership and share it with the whole Council.

Mental Health Task Force:

Met on October 27 for the first meeting around homelessness and its impact on learning and started Phase 1 of the SEL Kit project. I shared the flyer; this is for programs that serve children b-8 that serve children in our towns. There have been 15 requests that have come in so far, and they have been dropped off. We don't have enough kits to move to phase 2, which will be for families not connected to any programs. More information on this project can be found here: <http://www.neccouncil.org/resources/social-emotional-learning-kit-project/>

Regional Resource Guide

* A draft is a formatting printer; I will work on this over the next few months and give an update at the next meeting.

**Community Programs Sharing:**

**Erin: TEEG**, Two community events, Thurs. December 1, holiday book reading will happen at Thompson Library – food and crafts. A flyer will be posted and open to all. Friday, December 8, Parent night out – for kids ages 5-12, they will do crafts and make a gift. There is a cap for the number of children for this event.

**Emily Ross: Community Store** – new hours for November (2nd and 3rd Saturday). December is only December 10 from 10-1. Tommy toy fund – open to all communities for registration – the next 4 Mondays at Goodyear Family Resources Center from noon -2.

**Lisa Girard: FAVOR**, learning and leadership academy. The workshop covers facilitating a peer-to-peer support group and applying for funding. The workshop on December 17 is open to all towns; it is virtual.

**Kristen Hempel – EASTCONN**: Adult & community programs – still have room for people interested in earning citizenship, improving the English language, or completing high school education; please have them reach out. We are back in person but offer a complete online range of opportunities with a technology loan program to support that.

**Rhiannon – Access Agency:** My home CT program, which is mortgage assistance for homeowners – can contact Willimantic or Danielson to help with the application. Any homeless issues can call 211 and will connect with their services.

**Stephanie Hynes – NDDH:** remind that we are doing standing vaccination clinics on Tuesday from 3-6 p.m. in Brookly; no appointment is needed. Free 18 and under flu shots (charging $30 for an adult).

**Sandra A – NFN Day Kimball**: TVCAA, 1 or 5 home visiting programs for family support and branching out through Windham county. All five home visiting programs that spam Windham, filtering in through Robin – we are finally getting a standing playgroup and bi-lingual playgroup. Kickin it off in January.

School Readiness Meeting - see separate notes in google drive [11.7.22 SRC Meeting Items - Northeast Early Childhood Council - Google Drive](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1Ll2eBC9r6-zKNopSMJPLtFSydnJEZLGj)

 **UPCOMING COUNCIL ZOOMEETINGS for 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR:**

Monday's: January 23, March 13, May 1