



Vernon School Readiness Council
Minutes
June 2, 2021
1:00 PM

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Present: Michelle Hill, Anna Figueroa, Joan O'Donnell, Shelley McCone, Betsy Crayton

VSRC Mission: To ensure that every child in Vernon will start school ready to learn

I. Welcome and Introductions led by Michelle Hill Council Chair

- Review of draft minutes from May
- Request for motion to accept May minutes as presented with 2 edits (Shelley made motion-All were in favor)
- May Minutes approved with 2 edits

II. School Readiness Grant (SR)

A. **SR Liaison Update:** Anna shared information OEC CCDF Plan as presented by Commission Beth Bye on 5/20/21. Eight sections of the plan include:



-Family Child Care will be a key investment to include growing the # of FCC programs, Growing support to FCC programs and growing quality of FCC programs

-A market rate survey and cost of quality with be completed to inform permanent changes in increased wages
A new Quality Improvement System will be launched to include "Levels" detailing a rating system (not to duplicate Accreditation System)

-Some improvements should make it easier for programs and families to interface with Care 4 Kids

-The draft plan will be available publicly June 4th on OEC website. Public comment can be made during a webinar (must sign up for) or through a portal

-The plan makes provision for an increase in incentives for programs that are licensed, Accredited, and receive Care 4 Kids

Monitoring: The monitoring tool is in a final draft phase.

SR Community Grant 21-22: Grant submitted successfully. Should hear soon regarding approval.

B. Program Updates

1. Program enrollment

Shelley shared that they held the lottery and classrooms are set for next year. There are no 3 yr. olds on the waitlist. There are (14) 4 yr. olds on the waitlist. Enrollment is full and the ECE Reporter is done. Michelle thanked Shelley for her hard work on this.

2. NAEYC updates:

Accreditation:

III. Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration Funding Opportunity- Discussion

Michelle discussed the importance of quality care and quality systems of care. The **Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration Funding Opportunity** is a “quick turnaround” application opportunity that provides for additional funds to build and strengthen community collaboration.

Michelle shared and discussed the following:

Connecticut Early Childhood Funder Collaborative

A project of:



Funding Opportunity: Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration

May 25, 2021

The CT Early Childhood Funder Collaborative (CT ECFC), a project of CT Council for Philanthropy is accepting proposals from existing local early childhood collaboratives (such as STRIVE/Cradle to Career Coalitions, School Readiness Councils, former Discovery Early Childhood Collaboratives, DCF/Head Start Collaboratives, and Health Enhancement Community Collaboratives, etc.) to strengthen organizational capacity and/or implement birth to age 5 system projects. This funding opportunity is limited to communities that were not funded in 2020. See list below of communities that received continuation funding through a separate process.

“The project described is supported by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0071-01-01, from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Office of Child Care, the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.”

Eligible applicants may apply for up to \$25,000 for funding to be expended by December 31, 2021. Only one grant award per community will be made. Interested applicants are encouraged to connect to existing local early childhood councils to consider developing regional councils. Funding in an amount up to \$30,000 can be used to work on planning and developing a regional early childhood council.

Deadline for submission is Monday, June 21, 2021.

Please review the **Request for Proposals** for additional information.

For further information, please contact Carol O'Donnell at codonnell@ctphilanthropy.org.

This is an opportunity to strengthen councils; build capacity of collaborative; strengthen towns birth-8 system; engaging families in meaningful ways; assess gaps; build capacity through training

First step in process is for the Council to approve moving forward with application. Joan made motion to move forward with application. Betsy seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

IV. School Readiness Partner updates

Jen Snyder (EASTCONN) discussed the following:

- -Serving families in Tolland County through HS and EHS Home-based programming
- -New recruitment idea- invested \$ into running a Google Ad Campaign
- -EASTCONN is working on a big 5 yr. Community Assessment and are looking deeply into Windham and Tolland. They will be sending out a community partner on-line survey. The Assessment itself will be available online as well.
- -Laura Lybarger will send demographics by county
- -Michelle asked if they are looking at health. Jen replied Yes

Alex Veilleux-Champagne discussed:

- -Completed application for preschoolers 3 days/w and can now accept. Will share link to application and requests forwarding for children who are in need of programming.

Joan O'Donnell:

- -Playgroups are still running 2 days/w
- -Taking applications for OEC Home Visiting Program
- -The Family Development Center moved to 26 Haynes Street, Manchester
- -Target 2x/m for I/T thru EHS and other playgroups. Everything is virtual

Betsy Crayton:

- Birthing Center reports there is a Covid baby boom happening. May-August could be potentially the highest # ever

Michelle noted:

- The town is making decisions on summer programming- Park & Rec (Rick not present).
- Summer nutrition programming will still go on
- Summer Employment and Youth Program: local job site locations...possibly for EC students- 120hrs/6 weeks

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by: Anna Figueroa, SR Liaison