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Special Meeting
Vernon School Readiness Council
September 8, 2021
1:00pm
Minutes

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

Present: Michelle Hill, Anna Figueroa, Danielle Murray, Betsy Crayton, Cynthia Zingler, Rich Durkee, Maryssa Edele, Julie Cosker, Joan O'Donnell, Angela Flanagan

I. Welcome and Introductions

The SRC welcomed 3 new members: Michelle briefly described the mission of the SRC and its functions. It was agreed that another meeting would be scheduled to provide a more in-depth orientation for new members.

During her introduction Joan announced she will be leaving her position with the FRC effective Oct. 8th.

II. Review and Approval of draft minutes for 6/2/21 and 7/15/21

6/2 minutes were provided for review. Betsy made a motion to accept, Joan 2nd. No opposed, no abstentions. All in favor. Minutes approved.

7/15 minutes were provided for review. Joan made a motion to accept. Betsy 2nd. All three present for this special meeting were in favor. Minutes approved.

III. School Readiness Grant

A. School Readiness Supplemental Administrative funding: Vernon SRC received funds in the amount of \$4,569. Designated by OEC to support the work of the SR Liaison.

Anna described OEC's priorities for these dollars.

-Monitoring: Research, Review & Strengthen current tool and process

-Include Feedback loops in ongoing monitoring process

B. Program Monitoring- Status Update

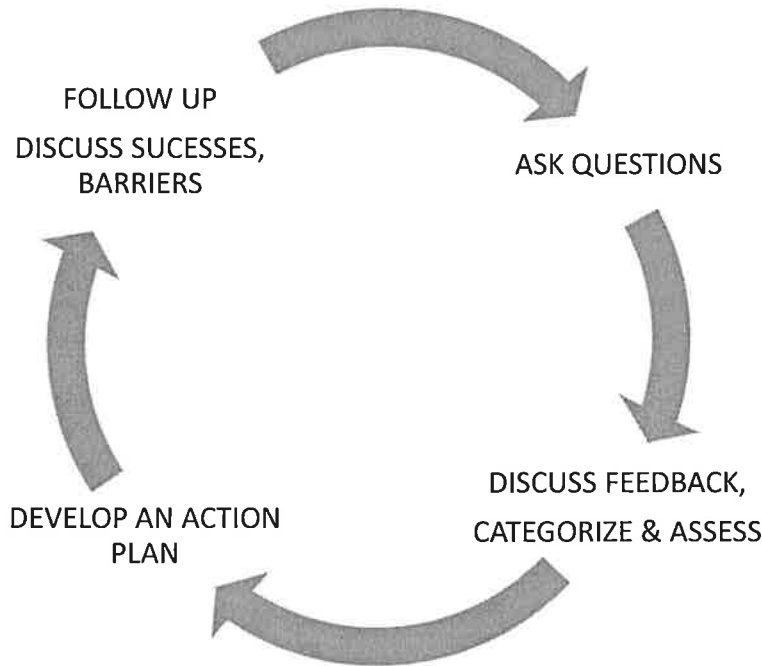
Anna shared the model below and briefly described the revised monitoring process and tool. The primary focus is on the following requirements: Adherence to the 10 NAEYC quality standards,

compliance with OEC policies and procedures, data collection and reporting, Registry ongoing maintenance and Quality Enhancement (QE) designated by QE dollars.

VERNON SCHOOL READINESS MONITORING PLAN FY22

- I. The SR Liaison meets with the SR Site Coordinator monthly for check in and updates.
- II. The SR Liaison reviews the OEC Registry quarterly to ensure site level OEC compliance.
- III. The SR Liaison monitors program sites quarterly to ensure grant compliance. (*It is the grantee’s responsibility to monitor their sub-grantees to ensure programmatic and fiscal compliance, accountability for children served, and that each program is implementing the 11 quality components (now, 10) under Section 10-16q of the C.G.S. and basic health and safety requirements.)

FEEDBACK LOOPS will be integrated into each of the above components facilitating Continuous Improvement.



Monitoring Schedule	July-Sept. Q1	Oct.-Dec. Q2	Jan.- March Q3	April-June Q4
Compliance Review	Overall Grant Management and compliance with OEC requirements (ex. SR Policies & Registry maintenance as detailed on OEC website); Implementation of NAEYC 10 Quality Standards; Fiscal and Reporting accuracy and timeliness			

C. Quality Enhancement

Vernon SRC received the same dollars as last year \$3881.00.

Last year, the SRC purchased a "program" subscription to Conscious Discipline's online training for all teachers our VPS and YMCA sites. Michelle described the basic fundamentals of this program as a Trauma-Informed, Evidence-Based, and Transformational Social-Emotional Learning and Classroom Management approach. Sites were asked to have their teachers signed up with accounts by Oct. 15th.

In the current year, the SRC decided to use these dollars purchase the parent curriculum for sites. The parenting Education Curriculum strengthens the school-home connection by enabling teachers to share Conscious Discipline skills with parents.

IV. Program Updates: Linda Hunter Williams (YMCA) on vacation.

Shelley provided the following updates for VPS

- A. Accreditation update: VPS has not yet received their 2-week notification of visit from NAEYC as of yet. VPS Coach Sherry Lambert has walked through using her observation tool. Sherry has been a great help during this process of preparation. The program Portfolio is 95% complete!
- B. Program Enrollment: 32 SR- PD SY slots believed to be filled at Center Road School (a lot of back & forth with families due to Covid). The 3yr old waitlist has (3). Shelley would like to increase this.
- C. Program Highlights: Making steady progress in NAEYC preparation, SR slots full
- D. Challenges and Need: Parents back and forth about participation in program, Accreditation preparation- Program needs to create and provide district plan for PD

V. Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration- Vernon's Better Together Initiative

Michelle and Anna discussed this new initiative. Sharing the initiative's priorities and major activities:

Top three priorities

- 1) Grow stakeholder knowledge and capacity building of/for a robust 0-5 system
- 2) Increase Parent Involvement in SR Council (add 2 Parent Ambassadors) & Community Outreach
- 3) Ensure SRC is diversified and representative of the community

Major activities

- 1) Utilize existing council members to provide a pulse on current 0-3 efforts, needs and successes. Reach out where there may be gaps.
- 2) Conduct surveys and/or focus groups to understand parental needs. Use lessons learned from 1 & 2 to prepare a brief community engagement plan that draws on shared resources and bolsters collaboration to strengthen a 0-5 system that supports all children and families.
- 3) Assess Council membership and strengthen as appropriate (increase parent presence and voice)

- A. Positions: Job description and application is online at the Town of Vernon Website.
Parent Ambassador: Both Maryssa and Cynthia discussed sharing with parents they think might be interested. OEC would like the name of the two Parent Ambassadors by Oct. 15th
Assistant Coordinator: Several applications are in
- B. Status Update: Anna is the Coordinator for this initiative and will lead its efforts. Anna noted the importance of drawing on the experience of the SRC Council. Each upcoming meeting Anna will

ask a member or two to provide their experiences, success stories and /or lessons learned as it related to system development for Vernon's Birth to 5 children and families.

VI. Partner Updates

Strong Foundations: Maryssa/Julie

Working on the process to become an outplacement for Special Education. Designated as a school with the State of Connecticut. String currently serves ~ 42 children from infancy to 1st grade. They are located on Hartford Turnpike and serve mostly Vernon families. A handful of families come from E. Hartford and Manchester.

Community Child Guidance Clinic: Angela discussed how referrals have been non-stop. Outpatient is extremely busy. The amount of under 5 referrals has increased dramatically due to the loss of Child First services. Two areas of high need: Attachment disorder and basic parenting support. "How Does Your Engine Run" is a program they are utilizing with families. CCGC is holding a Fall Festival Sept. 28th 11-3pm.

*Maryssa shared with Angela that they have Clinical resources available for children under 5.

Vernon Public Library: Danielle

289 Youth signed up; 4801 teen books in circulation; 2122 rewards were given out; 81.5 hours of reading logged!

The library is going to try and reintroduce in person programming for youth. Outdoor Storytime with younger children. The Library has "Grab and Go" kits available and will be working on Gratitude journals with children.

*Maryssa mentioned she would love to connect with Danielle and see if they could schedule visit to the library with children from Strong Foundations.

Vernon Family School Partnership: Cynthia shared she and Allison have been very busy with registration. 513 compared to 344 last year. 266 kindergarteners back up to speed.

Cynthia noted she is the McKinney-Vento Liaison and noted if anyone knows of homeless individuals in need of assistance, please contact her.

ECHN: Perinatal -Betsy: Reports record number of births. "Lots and lots of Covid babies". The record was broken in June & July and Oct. is expected to bring even more!

FRC: Joan noted they will be in a transition phase until next Coordinator is hired.

Parks and Recreation: Rich discussed afterschool programming for Lake Street, Center Road and Skinner. Children are being bused. Trunk or Treat will be held the Thursday before Halloween- drive through fashion

Meeting adjourned. Next Meeting Oct. 6th 1pm

Minutes submitted by: Anna Figueroa, SR Liaison