



East Hartford School Readiness
School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2022

Attendees:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| o Jean Barresi | o Krista Clark |
| o Natasha Robinson | o Jessica Carrero |
| o Mary Kuzoian | o Renee Byers |
| o Mike Walsh | o Manny Silva |
| o Cathy Potter | o Elsie Torres |
| o Lisa Toomey | o Casey Guiheen |

November Minutes Accepted and Approved as Presented

Provider Updates:

Krista / YMCA

- Not to capacity – 50% based on staffing - having difficult time hiring but have hired one new person
 - o Have posted jobs
 - o Several applicants but applicants don't show up for the interviews
 - o Infant/toddler programs are at maximum
 - o Still trying to get teachers to expand preschool rooms
 - Had to close preschool due to Covid
 - Was not able to find tests and had to wait a week for results.
 - Difficult for teachers – if no paid time off they are home with no income
 - Preschool room closed due to exposure. They open tomorrow
 - Anyone with symptoms is excluded from program until they have a negative Covid test
 - They have a wait list and are focused on staffing – if they can get some teachers they can grow the program

Lisa Toomey / YWCA

- Struggling to get numbers up – increasing slowly
- N95 and KN95 masks pick up
- Both sites hit over past month with Covid
- One site opened back up and closed the next day

Renee Byers – ECLC

- They are fully enrolled and have wait list – they reach out to families to let them know of other programs available
- They follow East Hartford public schools
- If staff or students have Covid, they have their quarantine
- Attendance has not been the best but is what is expected
- They had a great turnout for parent monthly workshops and literacy night – 50-70 of families log on for events

Manny – Silva's Youth of Today

- Waited four and a half hours in New Britain and got enough masks for week or week and a half



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- Issues with when children can return
- If kid's are home with no symptoms, we make decisions if they can come back
- Some staff out ill or their children/family exposed – not a lot of kids over holidays
- Same staffing issue as Lisa –
- Have people that have applied
- Going through accreditation – evaluation came out 12/21 and 12/22
 - No feedback yet on any concerns. Won't hear anything for a while.
- A lot of people getting sick in households
 - Even though enrollment is consistent, a lot of kids are out
 - Can't find experienced staff – trying to hire some people without experience, but like working with children – team up with experience staff for training

Liaison Report

- See link in agenda sent to attendees
- Monitoring: Sandy needs providers to take a look at monitoring forms
- Natasha received a good write-up for quality enhancements
 - Recap – many had scheduling challenges for December
 - She combined work she did for December and work for January
 - See agenda/Quality Enhancement Update for details
 - She started to write personal notes to each teacher after visits for feedback

New Updates from OEC

- Updated guidance for isolation and quarantine period (see Memos 37 and 45, see agenda for details)
- Distribution of test kits and masks – see agenda/updates from the OEC
- Important for this month is new legislation – as of July 1 the Council membership needs representative from the work force, job entity or local business
 - Jean reached out to the East Hartford Chamber of Commerce to see if they can direct her to someone
 - New legislation also requires that we document our effort to ensure Council membership is representative of the community demographics
 - Jean included a [survey](#) to gather demographics of the Council – she can compare to the town of East Hartford to see where to recruit membership for representation
 - Council Members to click on link and participate in survey to document efforts for grant
 - Jessica Carrero to reach out to East Hartford Connects
 - She will work with Amy Peltier or a parent
 - This will qualify as a representative
 - Other piece needed is someone from a local business
 - Jessica can work with a development coordinator to find someone
 - Jean had a parent reach out and wanted to be part of council, Rachel Prhodka-Spindel
 - If a program takes up to 12 years old, the parent rep would need the same age kids



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- Also per legislation, the Council needs to elect co-chairs
 - Jean will create another [survey](#) for voting to meet that part of the new legislation
- Jean is trying to get up-to-date on all requirements this month
- Anonymous submittals
- CTAEYC conference held on February 5 – virtual with wonderful presenters
 - Teachers encouraged to apply for scholarship and/or register to reduce cost to attend the conference
- AQIS – see new professional learning options link in agenda
- New application – if accreditation expires between now and 2024, Jean encourages them to apply for AQIS

Community Partner Update

- Family Resource Center
 - Offering Empowering People in Spanish – free dinner and child care
 - Library just released January/February programs
 - Information available online on their web site
 - They are hosting 3rd annual pre-school expo, January 18 6-8 pm
 - Share with families in programs to attend Lots of presenters
 - Informative
 - Also hosting Covid clinics at library – contact the health department for more information.
 - Starting today they will be hosting elementary school art
 - First show from Norris and O'Brien schools
 - Art from each elementary schools represented now through end of year
 - Homelessness Liaison – hopeful she will attend future meetings

Old Business

- Standing committees – sign up link in agenda
 - Need three standing committees
 - Click on link in agenda for place to sign up for a committee that you'd be interested in serving on
 - Each committee must consist of a liaison and a minimum of two from Council
 - No conflicts of interest
 - Sign up for committees to start getting ball rolling
 - Transition kindergarten committee important
 - Jean will reach out to chat about committees and the work they want to do
 - Info in sign -up sheet with bi-laws on what committee should be doing
 - Jean will send reminder to send up and take survey
 - Web site – Jessica's position has changed in Mayor's office
 - She's dedicated back to School Readiness
 - Concentrated focus on communication
 - Going forward send information to Jessica on what to get out – perhaps People Empowering – utilize town platform to get information out about school readiness and resources to blast out to demographics



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Jean will read survey results that are completed and watch the signing up for committees so she can reach out