Attendees:

- Jean Barresi
- Natasha Robinson
- Mary Kuzoian
- Mike Walsh
- Cathy Potter
- Lisa Toomey
- Krista Clark
- Jessica Carrero
- Renee Byers
- Manny Silva
- Elsie Torres
- 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
  - Have posted jobs
  - Several applicants but applicants don’t shows up for the interviews
  - Infant/toddler programs are at maximum
  - 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 expirees 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
Jean will read survey results that are completed and watch the signing up for committees so she can reach out