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DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT, AND NORWICH
ROTARY SUNRISE CLUB



Norwich Children First Initiative

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GREATER NORWICH
COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP TEAM

COLLABORATORS:

Norwich Human
Services

Norwich Youth &
Family Services

United Community
and Family Services

Norwich Public
Schools

Thames Valley
Council for
Community Action
Early Care and
Education

Uncas Health District

Pooh Corner
Preschool

Norwich Children First Initiative / Norwich School Readiness Council

Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2006 Mission Statement

The mission of the Norwich Children First Initiative is to engage our families, schools, and community to improve life outcomes for young children.

The Children First Initiative/School Readiness Council Collaborative is an effort to create an early care and education agenda that fully engages parents schools, and the community.

Attendees: Peter Schultheis, Jackie Jamrock, Duncan Profitt, Maureen Hogan, Heather Bonitz, Debbie Poirier, Teresa Messervy, Mary Broderick, Veronica Granger, Beverly Goulet, Janis Sawicki, Shanda Easley, Lynn DePina, Anne Krodel, Patricia Kornacki, Laura Olenick, Linda Massey, Chris Morello, Debbie Kievits, and Sherry Filiatreault

Welcome by Duncan Profitt - Board Chairman

Assessment Planning Tool for Next Year

Current Workgroup Report

- Membership/Publicity
- Norwich School Readiness/Child Care
- Maria Miranda
- Regional Meetings
 - Strategic Communications
 - Eat Smart, Grow Healthy
- Advocacy Committee
- Greater Norwich Community Leadership Team
- Financial

Assessment Planning Tool for Next Year

Currently reworking the grant for Graustein
Asking for volunteers to help gather information for the grant
Peter

Duncan Profitt
Maureen
Sheila
Sherry
Friday 27th 9:00 am – Meet at Youth & Family Services

Graustein Guidelines

- Birth to 8-years old
- To expand the supply of high quality early care and education in communities
- To improve the quality of existing early care and education
- To build strong connections between early care and elementary education
- To improve students' social, emotional and academic performance

Workgroup Goals

Childcare Workgroup

1. Community forum held on a quarterly basis (other providers)
 - a. First forum will be held on February 1st, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM at the Rose City Senior Center in Norwich
2. Update report card for Norwich
3. Develop introductory training program

Community Leadership Team

1. Run 4 programs once per year, working with adults and teens
 - a. Bring in advocates from the different committees to educate the new graduates so they have a place to put their energy after graduation.
2. Find financial support for the programs
3. Encourage parents to become involved
4. Link with other community leadership programs to involve their members

Regional Group

1. Create a strategic communications plan
2. Eat Smart, Grow Healthy
3. Recruiting for the Speakers Bureau
4. Increase advocacy
5. Explore “regionalizing” professional development and accreditation across town lines

Advocacy Group

1. Work with the Regional Group on the 3 issues that the community can address
2. Work toward legislative lobbying
3. Support appropriate bills that further the Board's goals

Membership/Recruitment/Publicity

1. Create a new parent membership packet for new parents, or those new to the community
2. Two public events per year to get parents involved with signage supporting Children First Initiative
3. Give at least three PowerPoint presentations throughout the community
4. Produce at least three newsletters yearly
5. Find partners and resources to support the efforts of the group

Miscellaneous

1. Resource Guide
2. Report Card
3. Family Day

Question: How does children's healthcare fit into the guidelines of the Graustein Fund?

Answer: This is a goal of the Regional Discovery Program. The forum is also a good place to bring this topic to the forefront.

What are the Building Blocks grant?

Mary Guerin would like to join the Advocacy Group. Members would like to do presentations (with entire committee in attendance) at city council meetings; presentations in City Hall and at NFA. Recruitment should be a part of each group to sustain membership.

Question: How is the Report Card used as a tool?

Answer: Forecasting, helps dictate our advocacy measures, serves as a resource for decision making, as well as establishing a baseline for comparisons.

This year will be a good time for advocacy of Early Childhood because of the upcoming election. It will also be important to look at being able to sustain our program(s) after the Memorial fund is gone.

Budget still needs to be determined

Work Group Reports

Membership/Recruitment

- CFI will buy out the Spirit of Broadway Theater for a children's show. Wal-Mart has agreed to sponsor it.
- Hoping to partner with DCF to help pay for an event involving a skit for the parents. Ideas: Magician, Mad Scientist, Singer

Norwich School Readiness

- Moving slots around March
- Using 149, but need to have 151. TVCCA is down 2 slots
- Discussion around the budget for Eat Smart, Grow Healthy, and Mental Health.

- Exploring the possibility of utilizing Three Rivers students as substitutes while professional education takes place, while giving the student a college credit.

Miranda Creative
Three core populations

School Readiness

Quality Enhancement money has placed more than 10 people in early childhood community college courses with all tuition and books paid. LEARN is contracted to offer professional development workshops to the community for the remainder of the fiscal year and attendance is high. A flyer to home daycares and centers produced approximately 30 people attending each workshop.

LEARN has been contracted for consultation for behavioral challenges that children are presenting to teachers. A provider forum held on February 1st had 40+ people in attendance.

Next meeting is at the Dime Bank at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, March 15

Hope to see you there!