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# 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  
February 16, 2005

### 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, Debbie Poirier, Beverly Goulet, Deb Kievits, Laura Olenick, Duncan Profitt, Jackie Jamrock, Sharon Lincoln, Mary Broderick, Anne Krodel, and Sherry Filiatreault

GMF has a discovery website! The website is a resource for our community. I encourage everyone to sign up so you can read about other communities and what they are doing. You also can join in on the conversations that happen and give a Norwich perspective. All you need to do is e-mail Donna Studdiford and request that your name be added to the mailing list. Her e-mail address is [studdiford@onpointconsulting.org](mailto:studdiford@onpointconsulting.org) She will e-mail you to confirm your request. Donna will also update information for our local section as we send it to her.

**School Readiness:** Several policies were handed out for approval at this meeting: Policies #0304-4, #0304-11, #0304-2. #0304-2 and #0304-11 were accepted. Policies #0304-16, # 0304-3 and #0304 were accepted as is. Policy #0304-13 and #0304-9 will be rewritten and approved at the next meeting.

**Keith Ripley:** He is asking people to go the New London County Education Fund web site - <http://members.aol.com/norwichnet> - and sign up in support of proposed S.B. No. 217. This is an act concerning the payment of excess impact grants from gaming revenues that was referred to the Connecticut General Assembly Joint Committee on Education. The act would provide increased funding to towns that document the number of children of persons employed by casinos who qualify under established criteria for special education or English as a Second Language programs.

Keith is also suggesting people sign up on the *Ready, Set, Grow* web site and become a friend of Connecticut children. When you sign up, you will not be contacted unless you check the box to receive mailings. The web site is: [www.readsetgrowctkids.org](http://www.readsetgrowctkids.org).

**Recruitment Committee:** We had planned a parent meeting for February but due to inclement weather it was rescheduled for **March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Rose City Senior Center from 5:30-7:30 PM**. This meeting will be used to get the “pulse” of the community – parents’ issues and experiences. This will allow us to let the community know who we are and what we do.

We will also be planning a meeting with area businesses to inform them about our program ask for their support in the future to work together as a community to help children. We will also determine the best way to communicate our latest happenings to them in a timely manner.

**If you’d like to be on this committee please call Sherry at 823-3782.**

**Leadership Team:** *Voices for Families* classes began at Teachers Memorial School. 18 people are taking the class, which promises to be a great year.

PEP should be starting in March at TVCCA Head Start program. PEP will begin at the Family Resource Center March 15<sup>th</sup> with 20 parents.

**Health and Learn:** A consulting team that has experience/disciplines in early care and education is being developed. Pooh Corner was selected from Norwich as a pilot site to help with nutrition. A toolbox may be developed for the centers to help inform/educate parents about nutrition. GMF will be providing technical assistance for this project.

**Childcare Providers:** Sharon Lincoln distributed CDA Credentials on early childhood. **Three Rivers and Mitchell** colleges have arranged that the Associates Degree credits may be transferred without a problem so students can work towards their BA degrees.

**Deb Z:** She now has funding to do a presentation on SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). Peter will receive more information as it becomes available.

**Anne Krodel:** She is organizing training on Childhood Literacy skills for Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Contact Anne at 823-4217 if you have any questions.

**Newsletter: HELLO need some articles** - please send to Sherry

**Strategic Community Plan for the three towns (Norwich, New London, and Groton)** – Met on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in New London, to continue discussion of what our collaborative message is, and how we’d like to develop it. We also would like to determine who the stakeholders are that we wish to inform and involve in this effort.

**Kinship Funds:** If you know a grandparent or relative guardian that needs money to purchase a special item for a child for whom they are caring, call Janice Thompson at 823-3778 for more information.

**Work Plan:** This was discussed and the new grant went in at the end of February.

**March 21<sup>st</sup> GMF** will be holding regional learning circles. The first one is on Economic and Racial Equity, and will be held at Griswold High School from 5:30-8:30 PM. Dinner will be provided. Each community may have five people attend. If you're interested in attending, please call Sherry at 823-3782.

**Financial:** Everything looks good!

*Next meeting is at the Dime Bank at 9:00 AM on March 16<sup>th</sup>  
Hope to see you there!*

