



# Norwich Children First Initiative

80 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360

Phone (860) 823-3782 Fax (860) 892-6031

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Norwich Human  
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Norwich Youth &  
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United Community  
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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  
November 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, 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

#### **Restructuring the way we do business ~**

New Co-chairs and Secretary will be recruited and a description of duties will

was developed gone over some changes made. Anne, Peter and Sherry will meet on who might be a good candidate to be chairs.

CFI larger board will meet every other month, beginning in February

December we will be having a celebration please join us and bring your appetite.

Workgroups will meet monthly; dates were set to begin those meetings

Chairs for each workgroup will report back to larger group

Mentors for each new work group member need to be assigned.

We will be meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> with Maria Miranda to formally introduce her to NCFI and what she can actually help us with.

**Membership/Recruitment Meeting:** A meet-and-greet was held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Miriam Thorburn's home (9 Chelsea Parade). This was a great night that celebrated NCFI 10 years.

**Advocacy Work group:** This committee has met and is discussing the different issues that we'd like to work on in the next legislative session. They will be

— DISCOVERY —

looking at what Janice Grundall will be putting out as hot items to watch. They need to collect all the origination and group that NCFI member is on. The next meeting date for this group is December 13<sup>th</sup> 2:00 o'clock at NHS.

**Norwich School Readiness Council Report:**

MEETING MINUTES FOR CHILD CARE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING of 28 October 2005 and CFI/SR COUNCIL MEETING of 1 November 2005.

The Child Care Subcommittee of the CFI/School Readiness Council met on 28 October 2005 to discuss two issues:

Attendees:

Deb Poirier	TVCCA
Anne Krodel	Norwich Public Schools
Lynn DePina	Norwich Family Resource Center
Maureen Scheuermann	School Readiness
Pat Kornacki	Pooh Corner
Veronica Granger	Pooh Corner
Rebecca Grillo	Integrated Day Charter School

1. How to distribute the SR unexpended funds of \$21,272.00.

The group decided unanimously to recommend to the School Readiness Council that three temporary slots be allotted to the Family Resource Center and one temporary slot be allotted to Pooh Corner. These slots will expire on 30 June 2005.

Along with this vote, the group recommended that a policy be written to state that in any given school year, programs will have the option, if they have the space, to recoup monies lost in any given month by adding temporary spaces to their program.

2. Quality Enhancement Grant:

The group decided that quality enhancement grant money be used as a general pool of money instead of distributing \$3000.00 separately to Pooh Corner, as was noted on the original grant. Instead, all professional development opportunities will be arranged through the School Readiness Liaison and will be advertised to the entire Norwich community.

It was also recommended that the number of hours for consultative services that was listed in the original grant be reduced from 200 hours to 50 hours. These services will be open to the entire Norwich community and will be offered through LEARN.

3. The next meeting is scheduled for 18 November 2005 at 9:30 at Stanton School.

Emergency Meeting of the CFI/School Readiness Council:

Attendees:

Peter Schultheis	Chair, NCFI/SR Council
Anne Krodel	Chair, Norwich Public Schools
Deb Poirier	TVCCA
Veronica Granger	Pooh Corner
Pat Kornacki	Pooh Corner
Bev Goulet	Norwich Family Services

1. An emergency meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 at the Dime Bank in Norwich. This meeting was held to vote on how to use the unexpended funds of \$21,272.00. The SR Council approved the recommendation of the Child Care Subcommittee to give three temporary slots to the Norwich Family Resource Center and one temporary slot to Pooh Corner. Slots will terminate as of 30 June 2006.

This recommendation was approved based on the understanding that a policy, if approved by the SDE, would be developed to allow programs to recoup money lost during the next month by adding temporary slots the following month, if space was available in the program.

The School Readiness Coordinator will coordinate with the SDE regarding this policy

**Greater Norwich Community Leadership Team:** Parent graduates are hard at work with the Anti-Bullying Coalition. Voices for Families and PEP will be up and running this January; we are currently recruiting, so if you know of someone who'd like to take the class(es), please have them contact Sherry 823-3782.

**Mentoring Program** this year is based out of Norwich Youth & Family Services. We are looking for mentors! Please contact Sherry Filiatreault or Debbie Kievits at 823-3782.

**Strategic Community Plan:** This committee is working hard to get posters printed up showing the three communities involved, and who to contact in each one.

The following decisions were made:

Three subcommittees have been formed - **Advocacy**, chaired by Sherry; **Communication**, chaired by Dana; **Speakers Bureau**, chaired by Peter.

The three communities will pursue the use of the Born Learning poster with an attached 'bookmark' piece as a way to locally brand the material.

A regional logo will be developed emphasizing children and families. The regional group has decided to hire Maria Miranda to help focus the group and create a logo and materials for advocacy and communications.

Maria Miranda will be hired to work with this regional group. A meeting will occur December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Newsletter/Website articles:** Do you have articles for the newsletters one will be done for January. Please call Sherry at 823-3782, or e-mail her at [sherryf@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:sherryf@cityofnorwich.org) if you have information to contribute.

**Financial:** On hold

**Work groups:** We went over our action plan and discussed what strategies will be assigned to each work group.

Strategies:

- 1) Promote ECE and NCFI - Work Group - Advocacy
- 2) Work with local child care community - Child Care / SR work group
- 3) Monitor the availability of early care opportunities - Child Care / SR work group
- 4) Work With NPS in inquires the capacity of their pre-school and SR programs - Child care / SR work group
- 5) Help with reinstatement of full-day kindergarten - Advocacy work group
- 6) Continue to develop a strong voice to advocate for funding, policy, and practices that promote the expansion of quality early care opportunities for Connecticut's children. - Advocacy - work group And Regional work group

Meetings for work groups are:

Child Care Providers / SR

October 28<sup>th</sup> work group meeting

November 1<sup>st</sup> emergency meeting

Members of this group are:

Peter Schultheis, Jackie Jamrock, Maureen Hogan, Debbie Poirier, Teresa Messervy, Gaylen Ware, Veronica Granger, Pat Kornacki, Shanda Easley, Rebecca Grillo, Anne Krodel, and Lynn DePina

Publicity

November 9<sup>th</sup>

Duncan Proffit, Debbie Kievits, and Sherry Filiatreault

Regional

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday or the month

Peter Schultheis, Maureen Hogan, Debbie Kievits, and Sherry Filiatreault

Advocacy

December 13<sup>th</sup> 2:00 o'clock at NHS

Keith Ripely, Peter Schultheis, Maureen Hogan, Beverly Goulet, Heather Bonitz, Rosemarie Rose, Debbie Kievits, and Sherry Filiatreault

Membership/Recruitment

December 5<sup>th</sup> 2:00 o'clock at Stanton School

Janis Sawicki, Debbie Kievits, and Sherry Filiatreault

Ad Hoc Committee

As needed

Leadership

Kay Eyberse, Angelo Callis, Nancy Gentis, Debbie Kievits, Karyn Barrows, and Sherry Filiatreault

Executive Group

(Meets four times a year)

Pam Aubin, Charles Seamen, Beverly Goulet, Peter Schultheis, Anne Krodel, Debbie Kievits, and Sherry Filiatreault

**This group needs another parent member**

**At this meeting we work on GMF Community Assessment and Planning Tool. The tool will be completed and sent to GMF with in the week.**

***Next meeting is at the Dime Bank at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>***

***Bring you appetites we will be celebration the Holidays and 10 years  
Hope to see you there!***