

Children First Norwich /
Norwich School Readiness Council

Meeting Minutes for October 18, 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: Sherry Filiatreault (CFN), Duncan Profitt (Chair,CFN), Mary Broderick (Graustein Memorial), Kay Eyberse (NY&FS), Bev Goulet (NHS), Veronica Granger (Pooh Corner), Anne Krodel (NPS), Debbi Poirier (TVCCA ECE), Sheila Skahan (TRCC), Jackie Jamrock (SEMH System of Care), Deborah Buxton-Morris (UHD), Lynn Depina (NFRC), Cherly Egan (NAE), Rebecca Grillo (IDCS), Erin Havens (CFC), Elaine Fitzgerald and Mary Ellen Rivera (Building Blocks)

Members of SR board: Duncan Profitt (Chair,CFN), Bev Goulet (NHS), Debbi Poirier (TVCCA ECE), Sheila Skahan (TRCC), Deborah Buxton-Morris (UHD), Anne Krodel (NPS) Staff: Sherry Filiatreault (CFN), Cheryl Egan (NAE)

Welcome

Chairman Duncan Profitt welcomed all members.

School Readiness

It was reported that sites were in the middle of compliance reviews. When these are finished, there will be a report in 60 days. Sites will then have 60 days to address any issues.

We discussed again what to do with the extra money. It was proposed that Norwich Family Resource Center take one extra slot, Norwich Public Schools –5 part time slots and TVCCA Head Start -1 part time slot. Deb Porier presented a motion to increase the number of slots, Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of the school readiness committee.

\$4,000 will be expended at Three Rivers Community College for CDA's.

Providers would like to move 12 slots from Wilson Child Care Center to Taftville . Bev Goulet made a motion to allow this, Cheryl Egan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

FAST

Kay Eyberse and Lynn Depina volunteered to meet with Peter Schultheis of Norwich Youth and Family Services regarding CFN'S commitment to developing a component of the FAST program in Norwich.

Discovery Community Assessment Tool

Mary Broderick led the Council through the Discovery Community Assessment Tool. She will compile the results and forward to Sherry. We will review them at the next meeting.

Work groups

The break out into work groups was postponed to a future time.

Truck Day

Deb reported on “Truck Day” as a membership/recruitment event and believes it could be a large draw to the community. The plan would be to hold it at Dodd Stadium sometime in the spring and arrange for a large contingent of vehicles-dump trucks, fire trucks, etc, to be available for youngsters to view. The committee believes that this event would attract parents, particularly fathers, and their young children and would be a great recruitment event. More information will be forthcoming.

Newsletter Articles

Duncan solicited articles from people for the upcoming newsletter. Jackie will do an article on the new Building Blocks program offered by LEARN. Lynn offered to do an article on the compliance review process and Deb Porier would like to write an article on the newly trained CDA people. It was decided that there needs to be a further conversation on how to get the newsletter out more effectively.

Financial Report

Postponed

New Business

Briefs

- Upcoming “Listening Training” to be held on December 1st .
- Thursday, October 19th Community Health Care Forum will be held at the Senior Center
- How could we share e-mail lists and information more effectively?
- Thursday October 26th Stonesoup Conference, Community Coalition for Children
- Building Blocks-Elaine Fitzgerald and Mary Ellen Rivera were new at the table, from Building Blocks, a new program focusing a early childhood mental health issues. We welcome them.

The next meeting will be on November 15th.