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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
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; a description of duties was reviewed, and some changes were made. Anne, Peter and Sherry will discuss possible candidates to be chairs.

CFI larger board will meet every other month, beginning in February 2006.

On December 21, 2005, there will be a CFI 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 1st with Maria Miranda to formally introduce her to NCFI and discuss how she will be assisting us.

Membership/Recruitment Meeting: A meet-and-greet was held on November 2nd 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 issues relative to the next legislative session. The Advocacy Group will also be paying close attention to Janice Grundel's top concerns. The next meeting date for this group is Tuesday, December 13th at 2:00 PM at Norwich Human Services.

Norwich School Readiness Council Report:

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

The Child Care Subcommittee of the CFI/School Readiness Council met on October 28, 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 June 30, 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 the space is available), to recoup monies lost in any given month by adding temporary spaces to their program(s).

2. Quality Enhancement Grant:

The group decided that Quality Enhancement Grant funding 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, originally designated as 200 hours, be reduced to 50 hours. These services will be open to the entire Norwich community and will be offered through

LEARN.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2005 at 9:30 AM 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

An emergency meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on November 1st at 12:30 at the Dime Bank in Norwich. The purpose of this meeting was 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 June 30, 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 at 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 that will show 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 (of Miranda Creative) to help focus the group and create a logo and materials for advocacy and communications. We will meet on Tuesday, December 6, 2005.

Newsletter/Website articles: Do you have articles for the newsletter? We are planning one for January 2006. Please call Sherry at 823-3782, or e-mail her at sherryf@cityofnorwich.org if you have information to contribute.

Financial: On hold

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

Strategies:

- 1) Promote ECE and NCFI - Work Group - Advocacy
- 2) Work with local childcare community - Childcare/SR work group
- 3) Monitor the availability of early care opportunities - Childcare/SR work group
- 4) Work with Norwich Public Schools with regard to the capacity of their pre-school and SR programs - Childcare/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:

Childcare Providers/SR -

October 28th work group meeting

November 1st 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 Krodell, and Lynn DePina

Publicity -

November 9th

Duncan Proffit, Debbie Kievits, and Sherry Filiatreault

Regional -

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month

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

Advocacy -

December 13th 2:00 PM at Norwich Human Services

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

Membership/Recruitment -

December 5th 2:00 PM 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 worked on the GMF Community Assessment and Planning Tool. It 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 21th

Bring you appetites! We will be celebrating the Holidays and 10 years for CFI!

Hope to see you there!