

CFN/SR Meeting November 15, 2006

Attendance: Betsy Bumpus (UCFS), Anne Jerome (SRN), Sheila Skahan (3RCC), Veronica Granger (PC), Pat Kornacki, (PC), Kay Eyberse (NY&FS), Bev Goulet (NHS), Mary Broderick (WCGMF), Keith Ripley (parent), Cheryl Eagan (AED), Ida Parker (TVCCA Shelter), Gaylen Ware (TVCCA), Debbi Poirier (TVCCA), Robin Williams (FRC/SR parent), Duncan Profitt (Chair CFN Parent), Sherry Filiatreault (CFN)

School Readiness - Anne reported on the School Readiness program. We had our site visit the week of October 16th. Joyce Staples, Deb Adams and Gerry R came on Monday. Joyce spent her time at Bishop going over the community information and observing the FRC program at Bishop School. Deb and Gerry visited the other nine sites over the next two days. Things seemed to go well, comments made by Gerry and Deb were positive. We can expect a draft report from the State in six weeks and we will have six weeks from receiving the draft to address any issues discovered during the visit. We discussed creating policies or guidelines for the distribution of the Quality Enhancement funds. Anne, Debbi and Sheila will work on a draft to present at the next meeting. Anne will collect information from other School Readiness sites with similar awards to see what they do. Debbi will give Anne information about what TVCCA does when they pay for course work.

We also discussed how to acknowledge the caregivers that have earned their CDA certificates through either Charters-A-Course, Quality Enhancement or other funding sources. A reception at the Town Hall in February or March, with the Mayor presenting certificates, was suggested. Anne will look into this; we may also connect this with a Provider Forum currently 'in the works'. The Childcare Providers Workgroup will discuss this during their breakout session.

FAST (Families And Schools Together) - Lynn Depina and Kay Eyberse met with Peter Schultheis. They agreed that it was a program worthy of support, possibly through the Leadership group. Peter is investigating funding. Pam Aubin has given the blessing to the program and we expect it to be implemented at Greeneville School. We will look into having the CFN/SR logo on the FAST materials.

Discovery Community Assessment Tool - Sherry distributed the information that will be sent to the Graustein Memorial Fund. In addition to the instrument, there is a copy of the Yearly Report from Children First Norwich. We are recommitting for funding for another year. This grant cycle is over at the end of 2007. There is a meeting on December 8th regarding the next seven-year cycle and what the WCGMF is looking for in the future. Mary suggested the Yearly Report include some information about the "Eat Smart, Grow Healthy" Program. Sherry will add this. Bev presented a short history of the Discovery Funding pointing out that sustainability is a larger issue with the WCGMF and an area where Norwich has to look creatively at the sustainability of CFN. We need to think about how to stabilize funding for the programs and activities we've started. Bev suggested we consider collecting a small fee from Council members to help insure a commitment to the Council. She asked about submitting a list of names and agencies of people on the Council to Graustein. Mary and Sherry said that this is best done in another part of the evaluation and information sent to Graustein. Sherry stated that this is done in stages.

Truck Day - Sherry reported that with input and collaboration from the Childcare Providers, we are moving along on the planning for this event. It will take place on a Saturday or Sunday, in late March or early April, from 9:00 to 1:00 or 10:00 to 2:00. We need to be aware that Easter is early in 2007. There will not be an admission charge, though we may charge for parking, and have food vendors present (we could

charge them a fee, or a percentage of their sales). We will look into using the Dodd Stadium parking lot. We will contact Norwich Public Works, Norwich Public Utilities, the State DPW, Fire Department, Don Mallon, Franklin Tractor, and others for the trucks. We'd partner with the Library and early childcare centers to help run the event. Sherry reported that other communities have used Truck Day as a fundraiser. It was noted that this event is particularly good since it targets young fathers, a group that WCGMF has determined we need to reach. **A committee consisting of Sherry, Anne, Veronica, Kay, Deb, Bev, Jackie and Robin will meet at 9:00, December 5th, in Room 11 at Bishop School.**

Financial Report - Betsy Bumpus presented a report on the distribution of funds from the WCGMF (attached). The money 'leftover' is earmarked for salaries. Graustein decreases the amount of the grants each cycle in order to reinforce the idea that communities need to help sustain their programs and activities. This year we received \$32,000, next year we will get \$29,000. We cannot rely solely on WCGMF funds. We need to find other sources for revenue.

Work Group Reports

Childcare Providers - We began planning for a Providers Forum. We would like to get the entire Early Childcare community in Norwich together for a pleasant evening of good food, networking, acknowledging CDA completion, and a keynote speaker. We will try to book the Rose City Senior Center for a Wednesday or Thursday evening in late February or early March. We will ask Dr. Bill Strader to give a kind of Keynote address with Ed Derr as an alternate (principal of Norwich Alternative High School). We will honor (with certificate presented by the Mayor, along with a gift of some kind) those people who have earned their CDA certificates (initial only) since September of 2005. Anne will make up a prototype of the invitation for the next meeting, and will also contact Bill Strader, the Senior Center, and a potential caterer (Deb will send menus for Illiano's).

Membership/Recruitment - Robin reported that they are looking to collaborate with CF New London with the March 31st show at the Garde of *Seussical the Musical*. We need to ask Lisa Cooney how the ticket distribution will work, and how to get them for the SR providers in Norwich. We need to find out if we would be allowed to have a table in the lobby of the theater and if we'd be able to promote Children First Norwich. We are also looking into setting up at the January 13th performance of *Cinderella*. We need to coordinate with LEARN about this.

Regional - Sherry reported that the website is being set up. The new logo is just about picked out. We are moving ahead to decide how to use the marketing tools we've created.

Mary reported on "Eat Smart, Grow Healthy". This is the last implementation year for the grant. They are linking with the new "Building Blocks" initiative and, perhaps, School Readiness Councils could take on pieces to help maintain the activities. "Eat Smart, Grow Healthy" is a "subtle, gentle" program. Their group is wrestling with issues around real life implementation of the program in communities.

Advocacy - Sherry reported that the 'One on One' training will be held on January 19th at the Dime Bank. Anne Pratt will need to interview people interested in the training. This will be done on the 15th of December. The training in January will have wide participation with representation from about 5 towns. 'One on One' is a

listening campaign to find out what the needs of the community are. Each person trained makes a commitment to talk with five to ten people in order to make connections. The idea is that by March, there will have been thousands of conversations across the State. Participants can bring others to the conversation. A question was raised as to the possibility of doing the interviews in other languages? This will be possible if the appropriate people can be located and are available. Anne Pratt is head of Connecticut Parent Power. Pam and Bev will help with legislative issues.

Leadership - Sherry reported that they have been invited to present at the Arizona National Fatherhood conference. WCGMF is going to fund the trip. This is great exposure for Norwich CFN. The Stone Soup conference was interesting, informative and productive. Sherry informed the group of how the Norwich community manages School Readiness and Discovery.

Newsletter - Articles have been given to Denise who is putting the newsletter together. They are collecting photographs and names for an article.

Other Business - Debbi Poirier would like the School Readiness Council to write a 'letter of support' from CFN/SR to send to CHEFA in order to get funding to build another early childcare center in Norwich. With all the tumult around the Wilson Center having to move several times, and the difficulties in finding an appropriate place, they would like to buy property and build a permanent home for their center. Anne will look into what was done before, and have a draft ready soon.

**The next CFN/SR meeting will be Wednesday, December 20, 2006 at 9:00AM
at the Dime Bank.**