

Griswold School Readiness Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 10, 2022
6:00pm – 7:00pm

Present: Joe Bordeau (GES), Stephanie Cote (GES), Jennifer Anderson Norman (Parent), Katie Sawaryn (Co-Chair), Jaselyn Caviness (Co-Chair), Debbi Poirier (TVCCA), Kathleen Brown (Slater Library), Cheryl LaMothe (SR Liaison)

Program News

GES

- Collaborating with TVCCA to plan NAEYC Week of the Young Child (WOYC) events.
- NAEYC Accreditation results still pending. NAEYC is experiencing technical difficulties, resulting in delays regarding decision reports. *(GES received word of achieving NAEYC Accreditation on 3/11/22. Congratulations to the GES team!)*
- Additional children enrolling in GES PreK in the coming weeks.
- In the process of completing RFP

TVCCA Little Learners

- New teacher/s in place
- Children/teachers taking advantage of outside and indoor gross motor development opportunities
- Recent art show in conjunction with literacy week
- In the process of completing RFP
- Program and administration actively involved in recent legislative efforts, Early Childhood Alliance, to support the ECE workforce and promoting awareness of the ongoing issues in maintaining quality child care and education programs. There will be a rally to support this effort on March 15 at 8:30, TVCCA

The Little Log School House

- No representative in attendance

Transition to K plans (process & updates)

- April 12 at GES from 9 – 12:40. Stephanie Cote in communication with community programs to participate in the event. GES scheduling screenings for children. Cheryl will be there to share School Readiness and SR Council information. Katie discussed Sparkler App from OEC and sharing code w/families at screening event and with community programs.

RFP Process Summary: Documents informing the RFP process are in the shared Griswold School Readiness Council Google Folder for additional review by the SRC members.

Overview and Description

- Provide access for children to quality programs, minimize developmental delays in young children, options for families, strengthen families through parent involvement and education, reduce costs for special education by addressing needs before age 5, assure children with disabilities transition to K, coordination and cooperation among programs and prevent duplication of services
- Provide funds for children ages 3 – 5 and access to education and care in the following settings: profit, not-for-profit private programs, public prek programs, HS programs, faith-based programs and state-funded day care programs. Programs must be NAEYC Accredited or eligible for NAEYC accreditation.
- Monitoring Requirements: collaboration with community programs and services and coordination of resources, parent involvement, education, outreach, record keeping, pre-literacy and family literacy practices, referrals, nutrition services, admission policies, transition practices, staff PD, sliding scale fees, annual evaluation of program
- Reports: monthly, and additional as requested
- Enrollment: 60% at or below 75% of the state median income
- Review of PD requirements: 15 hours of professional learning annually: 2 focused on early childhood development, 1 in effectively including and caring for children with learning differences (including those with disabilities and dual-language learners), new staff must have or obtain specific training in pre-literacy skill development and in racial and ethnic diversity within the first year of hiring.
- Additional documents for review in Google folder: Grant Submission Information, Local Request for Proposals Requirements, Staff Qualifications and the Registry, Budget Guidance
- Timeline: To Liaison 3/21 (QE 4/1) > Readers 3/21 > Feedback to Liaison 3/28 > Feedback to Programs 3/31 > Final to Liaison 4/7 > SR Council Recommendation for Approval 4/13

Quality Enhancement:

- Purpose: to assist early care and education programs in addressing quality standards and/or expand comprehensive services for children and families:
 - Support Accreditation
 - Staff PD/training, Consultants
 - Enhance services to children and families (health, educational, outreach)
 - Purchase educational equipment
 - Health and safety: staff training, facility upgrades
 - Support Family child care service

SR Council Membership & Roles: co-chairs and follow up from OEC

- Discussed Jaselyn's role re: reports, scheduling, related to the GES SR program. There were no concerns raised re: conflict of interest, raised by council members. Cheryl has reached out to OEC for additional guidance, with no concerns in her role as co-chair related to employment at GES.

Community Updates

- Slater Library: Toddler Story Time Tuesday a.m., Make and Take Crafts, Lego Activities, Wee Play Time. Hopes to resume Baby & Me in the near future.

Next meeting: Special RFP Approval Meeting April 13