

Griswold School Readiness Council Meeting Thursday, October 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Stephanie Cote/GES, Joe Bordeau/GES, Rebecca Jusseame/Slater Library, Dr. Jennifer Anderson Norman/community & parent, Sean McKenna/GPS Superintendent, Ali Lacey/ECCP, Julie Hall/SaraInc, Kathryn Sawaryn/GES, co-chair, Terry Wydra/LLSH, Debbi Poirier/TVCCC, Heather Lunny/LLSH, Dana Bennett/First Selectman Griswold, Cheryl LaMothe/SR Liaison

Program Updates:

GES: Curriculum focus through Oct – Fall, Kindness in the classroom (respect/caring) Town Hall Meeting w/preK classrooms; GES/GPS walk & mini nature trail, spirit week, firehouse visit. Upcoming: Parent/Teacher conferences, November BOE meeting re: name change; staff PD CT DOTS

TVCCA: Curriculum focus fall, with Family Fall Festival; granted waiver to reduce program hours because of ongoing staffing issues, with some progress being made in hiring degreed educators; staff will have Admin of Meds training in November

LLSH: Curriculum focus – All About Me, Family, Our Community, and moving into seasonal study of Fall. Waiting to hear status of NAEYC Accreditation; building update – renovations completed, working on hiring staff and getting furnishings for I/T expansion

Ali Lacey, MA *ECCP® Senior Consultant*
United Community and Family Services, Norwich
(860) 822-4325 <https://www.eccpct.com/>

Early Childhood Consultation Partnership through UCFS provides consultation to early childhood programs, staff, children and families to support mental health, positive behaviors, social emotional development. ECCP partners with program educators and families to develop action plans and strategies to support children. Services include center based and home visits and supports. ECCP is expanding to provide services to family home child care programs as well. ECCP provides monthly consultation opportunities for Early Childhood Educators. UCFS will be providing trauma informed support to children 0 – 6 years in an outpatient setting. They also provide phone consultation.

School Readiness Council Meeting Days/Times

Discussion: pros and cons of meeting times and efforts to recruit community members and families to the Griswold School Readiness Council. Council agreed to survey families and community members to determine a schedule that will give families and community members the opportunity to join the SR Council membership in support of Early Childhood programs. Cheryl will work with co-chairs to develop and distribute surveys and SR Council info sheet. A calendar of meeting times will be developed based on survey results.

Grant budget

Business office provided budget updates that were shared with the council. Please review and contact Cheryl for additional information and/or questions.

OEC Updates

- Fiscal Monitoring Documents – EASTCONN monitoring documents updated to include the fiscal monitoring document shared with the council, with sub-grantees providing detailed fiscal updates to the council 2 X annually.
- Sliding Fee Scale updated and effective 10/1/2022.
- New monthly reporting system using ECE Reporter.
- Enrollment Based Grant - \$30 million available to programs for emergency stabilization, process shared with programs.
- Wage Enhancement Grant – details expected soon.
- ELEVATE – Quality Improvement System for Early Childhood programs recently rolled out by the Office of Early Childhood. This QIS is voluntary, will provide supports for ongoing quality improvement for programs.

Policy Manual Update

Updates will be made when proposed legislative changes are finalized.

Community Updates

GES: PreK screening process updated, with screening available throughout the year in addition to the annual spring screening event. Parents can contact GES to request screenings, sub-grantees and other community programs will continue to support families through the referral process. GES PreK Special Ed teachers and other specialists are available for consultation and collaborative support to programs.

Julie Hall/KidSteps: Transition from B23 to PreK is going smoothly, B23 team growing, with new staff coming on board. Next summer – plans to pilot a new program providing positive social experiences for 3 – 9 year olds. More information to follow.

Jennifer Anderson Brown: Recently traveled to Italy to participate in Reggio Emilia program experience. Jennifer will share highlights of the Reggio experience and educational philosophy with the council.