



All New Haven children, birth through 8 are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.

**Meeting Notes
Wednesday, October 1, 2014**

- Welcome and Announcements – Jennifer Heath welcomed those in attendance at the meeting.
- Review of September meeting notes – No comments or edits.
- School Readiness Report – Denise Duclos handed out the list of current School Readiness and Head Start openings. This list is now posted to the NHECC website monthly. She reported that there are 67 School Readiness openings (there were 80 last year at this time in the year). Families that are on pre-k waiting lists at Magnet schools will receive a letter and a list of openings. Barriers to families enrolling their children in open slots include transportation, the family fee required by the state, and the Head Start eligibility requirements, which are narrow.
- Discussion - Plan for 2014-2016 - A three page document was prepared by Laura Downs, a consultant that the Graustein Memorial Fund is providing to assist the Council with developing a workplan for the next 18-20 months. The document was designed as a discussion starter.

The discussion that ensued included the points below:

- The system change definition on the document can be used as a guideline in establishing the priorities that the Council selects to work on over the course of the next 18 to 24 months.
- The Council can lead systems changes that are focused on Early Childhood issues and will work with others (partners) to get results.
- It is important to foster relationships and trust to include families in our work.
- The NHECC has dual purposes – to serve as the School Readiness Council (per the statute) and to work towards the vision statement for children ages 0 through 8.
- The Council Plan that was published in 2009 describes the vision we want and broad goals.
- We are trying to identify the work that the Council can do to influence changes to move toward attaining the vision.

The discussion to identify the priorities for the Council's work for the next 18 to 24 months will be continued at the November meeting.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 3:00

