



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

**Meeting Notes  
Wednesday, December 3, 2014**

- Welcome and Announcements – Sarah Fabish noted that nearly every NHECC member has joined at least one committee for this year. Gladys Deutsch reported that Leila Day is hosting a Conference on Nature and Early Childhood Ed (with Antioch College) on April 25, 2015.
- Approval of November meeting notes - Janet Alfano made a motion to accept the notes; it was seconded by Kia Levey and passed unanimously.
- New Haven Public Schools Smart Start Application - Tina Mannarino reported that the NHPS is planning to submit an application to open three classrooms (\$75,000 for each classroom) under the Smart Start program. Each new classroom will have 15 children; the schools that are being considered to house these new classrooms are Troup and Wexler Grant. The application is due on December 19 and the NHPS is requesting a letter of support from the NHECC (a requirement of the application). In response to questions asked, Tina reported that the plan is to move current School Readiness classrooms from these schools and open new classrooms, there will be no fee to parents, the NHPS will provide the cost sharing required, and the grant can be re-funded each year for up to 5 years. The classrooms will offer a 6-hour day for 180 days per year. Christine Montgomery made a motion to provide the letter of support (Tina will provide the language for the letter); Martha Okafor seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.
- School Readiness Report – Denise Duclos distributed the monthly report and the list of programs that have openings. There are currently 36 openings. The Grants Committee meets next week to make recommendations about transferring spaces from the programs that have not filled them to programs that can fill them. The committee will bring a recommendation to the January NHECC meeting for a vote.

There was discussion about how empty slots can be filled, in addition to what currently is being done. Denise reported that 100 lawn signs, in English and Spanish, in two colors (red and white last time) would cost \$355 (and an additional \$120 for larger stakes). It was also suggested that postcards, similar to ones used previously be used as a tool for outreach. Concerns about the SR office being able to handle a sharp increase in calls were expressed.

Kirstin Levinsohn made a motion to approve the funds for 100 signs and the creation of a postcard design be added to the Action Plan of the Priority #2 group that is working on PreK enrollment. Sue Logston seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Financial Report – Gail Ford reviewed the financial report. There were no questions or comments.
- Action Plans – drafts distributed.
  - Priority #1 Early care and education programs will be relationship based and trauma informed.– Sandy Malmquist reviewed the draft of the Action Plan for this committee. She noted that



Christine Montgomery helped the group to understand the issues of trauma for very young children. There were no questions.

- Priority #2 Create a PreK system that is easy for families to navigate– Tina Mannarino reported that this group’s draft Action Plan reflects its plan to look at the current barriers to parents’ understanding the full range of programs. Sherri Davis-Googe, from the NHPS Enrollment office will be working on this committee. It was noted that Eliza Halsey, who will chair this group is on maternity leave and did not attend the meeting.
- Priority #3 Infants and Toddlers – Priority Refinement – Janet Alfano reviewed the priorities that this committee identified as its meeting. It is important to note that for the purpose of this committee Families with children between 0 and 3 years are considered to be the entity at the focus of the work. The committee’s next meeting will be to develop its Action Plan.
- New Business - Legislative Session - Gail Ford reported that at the last Discovery Peer to Peer meeting the coordinators were asked to talk about how they would sustain their own collaborative work (when the Discovery Program ends in June 2015). The coordinators have been encouraged by the Memorial Fund and by the CT Early Childhood Alliance to advocate strongly at the legislature to continue with the matching funds that come from the OEC budget (as community plan line item).

There was also discussion about the NHECC legislative agenda for the coming year. It was decided to schedule a breakfast this year since last year’s late afternoon meeting was not well attended. This meeting would be best held at an early childhood program and in the month of January before the Governor’s budget is released. It was decided that a three pronged approach would be used in our advocacy work this year: have a breakfast for the New Haven delegation in January, meet with legislators privately in New Haven (especially if they don’t attend the breakfast) and meet with them/testify during the session as needed in Hartford.

The 2014 legislative agenda was reviewed. Gail will make some revisions and send it out to elicit other suggestions. The legislative agenda will be finalized at the January meeting before the breakfast.