



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

**Council Meeting Notes
Wednesday, February 4, 2015**

- Approval of January meeting notes – Janet Alfano made a motion to approve, seconded by Kia Levey. Motion carried unanimously.
- Financial Report – Jennifer Heath noted that the budget that was passed last month is reflected in this month's report. No questions or comments.
- Legislative Breakfast Report & Next Steps - Janet Alfano reported that a bill has been introduced to remove the sales tax from diapers.

The consensus from those in attendance at the Legislative Breakfast was that it was successful. The legislators seem to understand the issues and were open to what was said to them. Toni Walker was clear about the processes we need to follow, in particular about being visible and vocal in Hartford.

It was suggested that committees include legislative advocacy and follow up on bills and issues that impact their focus areas and Action Plans.

There was discussion about the written legislative report and the bills listed on the report.

- **HB6004** AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLABORATIVES is one that we support.
- **HB6614** AN ACT PERMITTING CERTAIN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS TO SATISFY THE STAFF QUALIFICATIONS FOR SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS requires more information to make a decision about supporting it.
- **HB6711** AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNIATION BETWEEN POLICE AND DAY CARE CENTERS is something that the Council will support. Eliza Halsey will follow up about having family childcares included.
- Senator Winfield introduced **SB782 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RETENTION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS AND THE STAFF QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENT** after the Legislative Breakfast. He needs information sent to him about wages, salaries and benefits in New Haven, as well as the schedules (10 month programs vs. full year programs). We support the intent of this bill as well.
- **SB321** AN ACT CONCERNING AN INFANT AND TODDLER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM was introduced by the entire New Haven legislative delegation. Jennifer heard from Martha Okafor that she would be submitting language for this bill. It would be good if the NHECC could be part of this.
- The Operations Committee recommends the approval of the proposal submitted by Kim Bohlen for the Performance Measure/Data Collection project as explained by Gail Ford. Two individuals submitted proposals in response to the RFP that the Grants Committee offered. Marcy Guddemi and Gail



interviewed the two of the four people that responded and Kim was selected. Sarah Fabish made a motion to approve; Eliza Halsey seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.

- Grants Committee Report – Sarah Fabish reported that the Workgroup for School Readiness Fees had their first meeting, but it was not well attended. Some preliminary work was done and two more meetings will be scheduled.
- Week of the Young Child – Sandy Malmquist reported that she is getting a 57% discount on the book HUG. She reminded those in attendance to send in their book orders. Next month we will talk about NHECC Ambassadors at the events during the WOYC. It was also noted that the NHECC website will be launched officially during the WOYC.
- Feature on New Council Member – Kim Harris agreed to be the first new member to share about herself. She hopes to learn from other NHECC members. Her school, Harris and Tucker, was started in 1970 by her mother and her aunt and is now run by Kim and her cousin. They take pride in doing good work and reaching into the community. They are working on NAEYC accreditation and their focus is on high quality early education and marketing. They are located partly in Newhallville and partly in Hamden. She also has a local cable TV show called Childhood Matters that airs twice a week, Wednesday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 9:00am.
- School Readiness Report – (note, SR providers were not present for this portion of the meeting.) Denise explained that a family is leaving a provider (A) and going to another SR provider (B). Provider A was out of compliance with the SR Grant because the only allowed a particular child to attend on a part-day basis because of the child's behavior. The family needed an FD program and has since moved to Provider B in a FD slot where the child is doing well. This is not the first time that the Provider A has been out of compliance.

Denise would like the FD slot that the child was using at Provider A to go to Provider B where the child is attending (even though the family's circumstances have changed and they don't need the slot.) Provider B has a child whose family does need the slot and Provider A does not have a child to fill the slot that is to be moved. Janet Alfano made a motion to move the FD slot from the old program (A) to the new one (B). Elisabeth Teller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.