



March 6, 2024 Council Meeting Notes

Members Present	9/6/23	10/4/23	11/1/23	12/20/23	2/7/24	3/6/24R	APR	MAY	JUNE
Allyx Schiavone	•	o	o	•	•	•			
Averi Pakulis	o	o	•	•	•	•			
Billy Johnson	o	o	o	o	o	o			
Carmelita Valencia-Daye	•	•	o	•	o	•			
Daniel Diaz	o	o	o	o	o	o			
Elisabeth Teller	o	o	o	•	•	•			
Eliza Halsey	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Galit Sharma	o	o	o	o	o	•			
Jennifer Heath	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Jerry Haruna	•	o	o	•	o	o			
Jess Bialecki	•	•	•	o	x	x			
Karen Dubois-Walton	•	•	o	•	•	•			
Kioamary Sotillo	•	•	o	•	•	•			
Leonora Netter	o	•	•	o	•	•			
Lynn Wiener	o	•	•	•	•	x			
Mary Derwin	•	•	o	•	•	•			
Robin Moore-Evans	•	o	•	•	•	o			
Sadie Witherspoon	o	o	•	•	o	•			
Soma Mitra	o	•	o	•	•	•			
Steven Cousin	o	o	o	o	o	o			
Susan Taddei	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Tamesha Robinson	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Vanessa Diaz-Valencia	•	•	o	•	•	•			
<i>Percent in attendance:</i>	57%	57%	43%	74%	67%	76%			

Staff: Denise Duclos, Kerry Oberg

Welcome & Call to Order

Tammy Robinson called the meeting to order and welcomed Council members and guests. Council members and guests introduced themselves.

Announcements

Allyx Schiavone announced that in New Haven and across Connecticut there will be a A Morning Without Child Care Rally on April 3rd from 8-9am. The purpose of the rally is to bring awareness to the importance of child care for families and the economy as well as highlighting the need for increased funding to adequately pay staff. New Haven's Rally will take place on the Green, across from City Hall. The Mayor will speak and others may be added as the date nears. Flyers (English/Spanish) will be emailed to Council members to share with families and friends. The Statewide advocacy group [Child Care for Connecticut's Future](#) is sponsoring the events.

Also announced were the Connecticut legislative committees which are hearing testimony related to early childhood-specifically the Education and Finance Committees. Specific Bills to watch are [Raised Bill No. 5346](#) and [SB 286](#) both include significant changes to the early childhood system.

Allyx mentioned the Office of Early Childhoods' latest plan, Early Start CT, proposes many changes to the current child care system in CT, some that will impact the work of local Councils. Carmelita Valencia Day added House Bill 5346 also contains changes that will impact teacher qualifications.

Recommendation: The Council invite Commissioner Bye to join us at the next Council meeting to discuss the Early Start CT plan. Kerry said she would contact the Commissioner's office.

School Readiness

Upcoming changes due to YNHH child care transition

Kerry Oberg updated the Council on the Yale New Haven Hospital's (YNHH) plan to partner with Bright Horizons effective June 28, 2024. This will involve closing the day care on Davenport Ave and turning over operation of the George Street day care to Bright Horizons. Kerry has been working with the families impacted by this decision, informing them of other School Readiness Child Care options in New Haven. Some of the families at the Davenport center will see changes sooner than June 28 as teachers at the Davenport site are giving notices and taking employment at other centers. With classrooms understaffed, some may have to close before June 28th.

MOTION: Averi Pukulas made the motion to give Kerry Oberg the authority to move YNHH school readiness spaces to centers where children from YNHH will transition to – whether that is before or after June 28th. Galit Sharma 2nd. Motion passed with 0 no votes and 6 abstentions.

Recommendation: Kerry send an email to all SR providers to determine who has openings so she can share with YNHH families.

Council members and guests then broke into 3 groups to begin discussions on the 3 committees that are needed to do the work discussed at the last meeting: School Readiness Committee, Quality Enhancement Committee and the ad hoc Website Design group. Notes from each group summarizing the discussions will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm