

**School Readiness Council
Hamden
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2006**

Members present: Portia Bonner, Catherine Bradshaw, Arlene Cassello, Gretchen Ferri, LuAnn Gallicchio, Yvonne Jones, Alice Torres, Virginia Wright-Younger, and Karen Piedescalzo, facilitator

1. Sub-Committee Updates

A. Steering Committee – no report

B. Communications and Marketing Committee – no report

C. Program Committee – LuAnn Gallicchio and Karen Piedescalzo have met with the child care directors during their last two monthly meetings to plan for the child care expo. The next expo planning meeting will be on Wednesday, January 11 at 6:00 pm at Miller Memorial Library.

The Baby Welcome Packets are ready except for the books which have been ordered and are waiting to get delivered. There needs to be a connection to the town clerk in order to obtain the names of new Hamden babies.

D. Research and Development Committee – no report

E. Advocacy Committee – There was discussion about kindergarten assessment.

Preschool Framework – expected use of the framework and the companion piece

There is a push to do more training programs through the State Department of Education. It would be nice if kindergarten teachers would be able to attend the training as well as preschool teachers. It is important for preschool and kindergarten teachers to work together. In Hamden there is talk of providing a workshop for them from 1:30-3:30 pm.

2. Community Reports

A. School Readiness Program – The Alice Peck School Readiness Program is looking to expand into the adjoining classroom. LuAnn is waiting to find out about the funding.

LuAnn is working on writing a minor capitol improvement grant for computer wiring at Alice Peck School. This will help with the sharing and reporting of information for the School Readiness Program.

B. Family Resource Center – The play groups have started at Church Street School. There is a plan to expand the play groups to Alice Peck School. In order to do this money from the Graustein Discovery Grant will be needed. There has been some interest from Wintergreen Magnet School to develop play groups. LuAnn will talk with the principal. However, it may not be financially possible to offer play groups at this many locations.

The Adult Ed program is continuing at Church Street School. ESL provides babysitting.

C. PACK – It appears that the ACES/Hamden Public Library PACK activities will be funded for a 4th year. The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven is working to raise additional monies to cover expenses beyond that time. A PACK ongoing Committee has been formed to begin identifying new funding opportunities and develop a list of needs to sustain the organization's work. The Committee and the Pack affiliated organizations will have the responsibility of planning agendas for future Consortium meetings, which will include discussions on grant writing, staffing, consulting, and highlighting individual projects.

Bob Bloom presented a hands-on participatory event that was accessible to all ages on December 15 at the Community Branch that brought in 42 participants. Drumming About You is the program that Mr. Bloom created that provides a beautiful array of percussion instruments giving rise to the rhythms of Brazil, Cuba, Africa, and North America.

The PACK families are disappointed that the Community Space is not being utilized but understand that the mold problem can be harmful. They are hoping the clean up happens very soon.

D. Facilitator – On Thursday, December 15, Chris Ely, a trainer from the American Red Cross presented a CPR Workshop. There were 11 participants.

On Monday, January 9, Shari Konn-Andrade, Early Childhood Specialist, United Way presented "Hitting Hurts: Conflict Resolution for Young Children". There were 31 participants.

3. Graustein Report – no report

4. Other Business –

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, at 9:00 A.M. at the Government Center Conference Room.

