

**School Readiness Council
Hamden
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2005**

Members present: Portia Bonner, Louise Brundage, Arlene Cassello, Debbie Culligan, Jackie Downing, LuAnn Gallicchio, Mary Marrantino, Susan Rubino, Ellen Thompson, Virginia Wright-Younger, and Karen Piedescalzo, facilitator

1. Sub-Committee Updates

A. Steering Committee – no report

B. Communications and Marketing Committee – The website has been launched. The website address is www.hamdenkids.org. Karen Piedescalzo and Dotie Dykty will attend a training session with Web Solutions to learn how to manage the site. The calendar will need to be updated and kept current. The website will have a quarterly, or eventually monthly, newsletter that will be written about a particular topic by one of the council members (ex. library, health department, school system). We will need to find out what format it needs to be in.

There are ten \$5,000 grants that will be awarded to schools, preferably schools with a Family Resource Center. We could work along with the kindergarten teachers. We could also incorporate things that are on the West Hartford School Readiness Council website.

C. Program Committee – The Baby Welcome Packets are coming along and will soon be ready to be mailed. Jackie Downing has acquired the names of new Hamden baby births. Karen Piedescalzo contacted Presto Print and they can make up magnets with the website name. Nancy McLaughlin has ordered brochures from the CT State Library. Infoline will be delivering fliers to the Family Resource Center to be included in the packets. Karen has received sample fliers from Noodle Soup, a catalog that also has board books and baby t-shirts.

Karen spoke to Carole Ireland at the Senior Center to reserve Thornton Wilder Hall on Saturday, March 18 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm for the Child Care Expo. The cost is \$45.00 per hour. The council will be billed for five hours. The council agreed to book the room on this day. Karen will contact Carol Ireland to reserve the room.

D. Research and Development Committee – no report

E. Advocacy Committee – no report

2. Community Reports

- A. School Readiness Program** – The School Readiness Program will participate in a program called “Pink Ribbon Bagels”. The children will sell cherry vanilla bagels from Panera Bread to raise money for breast cancer. The children in the program are also collecting soda can tops to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House.
- B. Family Resource Center** – The Family Resource Center will be starting the Starlight Readers program using the Motherread/Fatheread curriculum. The program will run from October through January and may include 25 people from Pre-K to grade 2. The participants will have supper from 5:30-6:00 pm and the program will be held from 6:00-7:30 pm at Church Street School.

A PEP (People Empowering People) program will be held from January to May at Hamden High School. The program will include 15 participants. Cherry Czuba will speak to the participants on the first night of the program.

C. PACK – no report

D. Facilitator – On Wednesday, September 21 Janna Wagner, Program Director, All Our Kin, presented “Fun and Exciting Science Activities for Children”. There were 34 participants.

On Monday, October 3 Jennifer Martin and Kim Sperry, DCF, presented “Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect”. There were 23 participants.

A workshop will be held on Monday, November 7 from 7:00-8:00 pm at Church Street School. Dr. Marjorie Rosenthal, Pediatrician, Yale-New Haven Hospital, will present “Recognizing and Preventing Colds and Flu”.

A series of Home Child Care Provider Workshops was offered at Miller Memorial Library. The first workshop was “Open Your Door to a Career in Child Care” but only one home child care provider registered for the workshop so it was cancelled. Karen revised the flier and re-mailed it to the home child care providers in order to attract more providers for the next two workshops offered which include “Marketing Your Family Child Care Home” on Wednesday, November 2, and “Running a Quality Family Child Care Home” on Wednesday, December 7. Shari Konn-Andrade (United Way-Infoline) will present this series.

A Child Care Director’s Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9 at Alice Peck School. They will discuss the upcoming workshops and the child care expo planned for next spring. The director from the new child care center attended the October director’s meeting and the evening workshops. The directors have shown great interest in continuing these meetings.

- 3. Graustein Report** – Karen attended the Coordinators Meeting at the Graustein Memorial Fund Office. It was extremely well attended and included information sharing including roles, responsibilities and relationships of coordinators.

The council will complete the assessment tool at the November meeting.

On Thursday, October 20 the Graustein Memorial Fund will hold Stone Soup at the Farmington Marriott from 8:30 am-4:00 pm. LuAnn Gallicchio, Portia Bonner, Susan Rubino and Ellen Thompson will attend.

- 4. Other Business** – LuAnn posed the question “Why do priority school districts get more money per slot than severe needs school districts?”

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2005, at 9:00 A.M. at the Government Center Conference Room.