

**School Readiness Council
Hamden
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2006**

Members present: Catherine Bradshaw, Arlene Cassello, Ellen Thompson, Gretchen Ferri, LuAnn Gallicchio, Yvonne Jones, Betty Mettler, Alice Torres, Virginia Wright-Younger, and Karen Piedescalzo, coordinator

1. Sub-Committee Updates

A. Steering Committee – Ellen thanked everyone for their work on the Discovery Action Plan and the Discovery Questions for Reflection & Action Planning. A budget has been put together and includes a parent advocate in order to engage parents. The PEP (People Empowering People) program for Hispanic families began on March 13. The Motherread program, currently offered for Church Street School and Helen Street School families will expand to Bear Path School.

B. Communications and Marketing Committee – The Hamden Kids Expo is set to be held from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 18 at Thornton Wilder Hall. Set-up will begin at 8:30 am. There are 14 child care programs, 11 community agencies and 3 local businesses registered to attend. There will be an animal presentation from Beardsley Zoo, an interactive drumming demonstration, a clown with balloons and a musician to provide entertainment throughout the day. There will also be free books, refreshments, a raffle and give aways.

There should be a link from the Hamden town website to the Hamden Kids website. This will be discussed at a meeting with the mayor.

C. Program Committee – There will be a Kindergarten Transition workshop held from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm on Thursday, March 30 at Alice Peck School. This will be a professional development opportunity for Hamden kindergarten teachers, school social workers and preschool special education teachers. All Hamden preschool teachers and child care directors have been invited and encouraged to attend. The kindergarten teachers will share what goes on in Kindergarten; the preschool teachers will share what goes on in preschool. The participants will work in small groups and report back to the entire group. Lunch will be provided.

The Kinder Prep program, which has been used only at Church Street School in past years, will be expanded to include all eight elementary schools in August. Children and parents will be welcomed by the principal, have the opportunity to meet the teachers and visit the classroom.

A workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 23 from 6:30-7:30 pm at Church Street School. Anne Mead from the Early Care and Education Training Institute will present an OSHA workshop. There is a federal mandate that all child care providers receive training in Occupational Safety and Hazard Administration.

A Child Care Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15 at Alice Peck School. They will discuss the Hamden Kids Expo and the Kindergarten Transition workshop.

D. Research and Development Committee – no report

E. Advocacy Committee – no report

2. Community Reports

A. School Readiness Program –

B. Family Resource Center –

C. PACK –

D. Coordinator – see report under Program Committee

- 3. Graustein Report** – Catherine Bradshaw attended a lobbying and advocacy meeting which was held on March 13 about the legal restrictions around lobbying. Lobbying is trying to influence legislators. Advocacy is much broader and includes education and training. Communities learned what issues they are allowed to support.

The next Regional Learning Circle will be held on Wednesday, March 22 from 5:30-8:30 pm at the GMF Office. The topic will be "Networking and Sharing Successes". An Institute on Community Organizing is also being planned.

4. Other Business –

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2006, at 9:00 A.M. at the Government Center Conference Room.