

**School Readiness Council
Hamden
Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2006**

Members present: Portia Bonner, Arlene Cassello, Yvonne Jones, Edie Reichard, Susan Rubino, Ellen Thompson, Catherine Bradshaw and Karen Piedescalzo, coordinator

- 1. Born Learning Presentation** - Sarah McNeely, Program Coordinator for United Way of Greater New Haven's Success By 6 initiative gave a presentation. United Way is having a new focus on the NAEYC Accreditation process. Their grant review committee wants to pool their money with other funders to set up a regional program to help organizations go through the accreditation facilitation process. They will first focus on programs that are up for re-accreditation in 2007.

United Ways have been asked to put together listening forums. They are considering who to invite and where to hold the forums. They have scheduled one on September 25 from 5:30-8:30 pm which includes dinner and childcare.

As a part of Success By 6, United Way of Greater New Haven has adopted a three year national public awareness campaign called Born Learning. They did research on parents and caregivers and realized that they did not know what to do to help children learn. This campaign was launched nationally last summer in a partnership between United Way of America, Civitas (Chicago-based nonprofit that develops educational materials) and The Ad Council. It uses print, radio, television and web based tools to help parents create learning opportunities for their children. United Way of Greater New Haven is partnering with the school readiness councils and Discovery Communities in New Haven, East Haven, West Haven and Hamden to create a plan for the distribution of Born Learning materials and information to parents in these towns. Currently there are public service announcements on WTNH television.

United Way is planning to solicit sponsorships to underwrite the cost of printing and distributing the materials. They need to find out approximately how many of each piece our council needs. Sarah may be contacted at smcneely@uwgnh.org and further information may be found at www.BornLearning.org.

2. Sub-Committee Updates

A. Steering Committee – no report

B. Communications and Marketing Committee – Information is needed for Central Office, the Kinder Prep program and school teachers to tell about the Hamden Kids website. There have been several hits to the website including a teacher inquiring about teaching Chinese in the Adult Education program and a parent asking about the summer reading list.

C. Program Committee – Luann Gallicchio met with three Kindergarten teachers to discuss kindergarten transition. LuAnn, Arlene Cassello and Karen Piedescalzo will meet to discuss the Kinder Prep program. Press releases will be written and fliers sent out to child care programs, churches, libraries etc.

Karen has received the names and addresses of new babies in Hamden from Vera Morrison at the Town Clerks Office. She will send out a Baby Welcome Packet for each family.

D. Research and Development Committee – no report

E. Advocacy Committee – no report

3. Community Reports

A. School Readiness Program –

B. Family Resource Center –

C. PACK –

D. Coordinator – An Epi-Pen Re-certification workshop was held on Tuesday, June 20 at Church Street School. Alycia Clune, R.N. presented this to 10 child care providers who are currently certified in Medication Administration.

Janna Wagner and Tanya Michaelson of All Our Kin presented a “Go Outdoors” workshop on July 13 at Church Street School. Thirty-two child care providers attended.

E. Hamden Youth Services – Susan Rubino announced that Hamden Youth Services has applied for a grant from the CT State Department of Education for a new program that is being developed for the students at Hamden Middle School. It will be held after school from October through May.

4. Graustein Report – Graustein Memorial Fund will not be conducting the Regional Learning Circles this year. The Cohort meetings in October will look at information received from a poll of voters across CT about early learning issues.

Maria Mojica has left her position as Senior Program Director at Graustein Memorial Fund.

The Kindergarten Transition Institute will be held on Friday, October 13 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the GMF offices in Hamden. This will be the last of a series of three workshops.

5. Other Business – Ellen Thompson has applied to receive 3000 free books from Stop & Shop. Free books are also available from Read to Grow and the Book Bank.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2006, at 9:00 A.M. at Alice Peck School.