

**School Readiness Council
Hamden
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2005**

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

- 1. Parent Engagement Survey** – Connecticut Parent Power is conducting a survey in partnership with the Graustein Memorial Fund to understand better how the Discovery Collaborative relates to parents and issues of concern to them. The Parent Engagement Survey was discussed and completed by the SRC members. The survey results will be shared by the Memorial Fund at the Regional Learning Circle on Parent Engagement on June 14.

- 2. Website Presentation** – Thomas Barton of Web Solutions gave a presentation of the proposed SRC web site. Web Solutions would be responsible for the design, development and hosting of the web site. They would also train designated SRC members to be able to update pages as needed. It would take 6-8 weeks from the start to the completion of the project.

The website may include a home page, SRC information (members, meeting dates, agendas, minutes), calendar of activities (child care providers, parents and families), newsroom, resource room (links), contact us (registration to receive information via email), and a site map. The site would be developed with printer friendly pages and maintain 503 compliance for persons with disabilities.

The design and development costs would be approximately \$6000 and the hosting would be \$40 per month.

- 3. Success by Six Grants** – Arlene has submitted a large grant application for the Motherhead Program. The \$50,000 grant is intended to provide the Motherhead Program in all eight elementary schools along with a follow-up in the spring.

Ellen has submitted a small grant application for the Hamden Education Leadership Project (HELP). The \$10,000 grant would be used to provide a series of professional development workshops for licensed early care and education providers, a series of information sessions for kith and kin providers and parenting education sessions for families.

- 4. Budget Update**-The budget originally allotted \$6000 for the website. The SRC discussed the website presentation and proposal by Web Solutions and unanimously voted to use \$7500 for the design, development and hosting of the website. Jackie, LuAnn, Karen and Susan offered to help plan the content of the web site.

Alice needs all budget projections of expenditures submitted to her by May 13.

5. **Action Plan**-The next project will be the Baby Welcome Packets. Jackie Downing stated that there is a listing of new births at Town Hall. Louise Brundage shared that the American Library Association has a system for new babies (www.ala.org).

6. Sub-Committee Updates

- A. **Steering Committee** – no report
- B. **Communications and Marketing Committee**- see Website Presentation above
- C. **Program Committee** – LuAnn and Karen will schedule a meeting for the Baby Welcome Packets sub-committee after LuAnn's vacation.
- D. **Research and Development Committee** – no report
- E. **Advocacy Committee** – no report

7. Community Reports

- A. **School Readiness Program** – The School Readiness Program grant application has been completed and submitted. The children in the Church Street School Readiness Program will take a field trip to meet and visit with the children in the Alice Peck School Readiness Program. Both programs will be going on field trips to the zoo and a picnic at Lighthouse Park.

Ella Jenkins will be performing at the Arts and Ideas Festival on Audobon Street on June 15. Both School Readiness Programs will be taking the children. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

- B. **Family Resource Center** – The Family Resource Center grant application has been completed and submitted. The SDE has not said too much about the new budget. They will vote on the budget on June 8.
- C. **PACK** – The mural at Brundage Library has been completed and a dedication will be held on May 19 at 6:00 pm. Becky Cuevas will be graduating from Albertus Magnus on May 15.
- D. **Facilitator** – On Thursday, April 28 Laura Evangelist, an Occupational Therapist from ACES , presented "Getting Your Hands Ready for Writing: Prerequisite Skills". Twenty-six providers attended the workshop. There were many hands-on demonstrations and ideas for simple, inexpensive activities. Participants were given resource materials to take home.

In June there will be two eight-hour CT Child Care First Aid/CPR Workshops. One will be held from 6:00-10:00 pm on Monday, June 6 and 13. The other will be held from 8:00 am-4:00 pm on Saturday, June 11. Chris Ely from the American Red Cross will be the presenter for all sessions. This course meets CT state licensing regulations. Food will be provided from the Discovery Grant.

A Child Care Director's Meeting was held on Thursday, April 14 at Alice Peck School. Barbara Cover, Special Education Coordinator for Hamden Public Schools, shared information on the process of referring children with behavioral issues and the resources available to families. The directors were able to ask questions and talk about situations that they needed help with. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12 in which the providers will share activities, ideas, books, songs, etc.

A Home Child Care Providers meeting was held on Tuesday, April 12 at Miller Memorial Library. Providers had been invited to learn about the resources available to them and receive the Hamden Early Care and Education Binder. Unfortunately, only two providers showed up. However, they stayed for more than the one hour originally scheduled and were very interested in the workshops offered.

- 8. Graustein Report** – Karen Piedescalzo and Susan Rubino attended the Topical Session on Home Based Care on May 4. It was a very informative meeting about kith and kin providers, the challenges and successes. Another Topical Session on Home Based Care will be held on Thursday, July 21 from 9:30 am-12:00 pm at the GMF Office.

The next Regional Learning Circle will be held on Tuesday, June 14 from 5:30-8:30 pm at the GMF Office and the topic will be "Parent Engagement".

The next meeting will be held on June 14, 2005, at 9:00 A.M. at the Government Center Conference Room.

