

**School Readiness Council
Hamden
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2005**

Members present: Louise Brundage, Jackie Downing, LuAnn Gallicchio, Betty Mettler, Susan Rubino, Lisa Sizer, Ellen Thompson, Virginia Wright-Younger, Catherine Bradshaw, GMF Consultant, and Karen Piedescalzo, facilitator

- 1. Ready, Set, Grow, CT Kids** – Carol Cangiano gave a powerpoint presentation on Ready, Set, Grow, CT Kids and their goal that “All of Connecticut’s children will arrive at kindergarten healthy, eager to learn and ready for school success”. The problem is that as many as 25% of CT children entering kindergarten are not prepared and few ever catch up. Through this campaign they hope to develop awareness and obtain thousands of signatures to support their goal. Cards were passed out to distribute to parents, friends and child care providers.
- 2. Success by Six Grants** – The Hamden/North Haven YMCA was awarded a small grant to have Teaching Strategies come to train head teachers and assistant teachers in the Creative Curriculum. The staff from the infant/toddler program and preschool program would be exposed to the latest educational strategies and approaches.

The Hamden School Readiness Council was awarded a \$10,000 grant for the Hamden Education Leadership Project (HELP). It will be used to expand on 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.

ACES was awarded a \$50,000 grant for a Family Resource Center to serve North Haven and the surrounding communities of New Haven, Hamden, East Haven and West Haven. The FRC will implement parent education, a Parents as Teachers program and a Motherread/Fatheread program.

- 3. SRC Bank Account** – LuAnn and Karen have requested that a bank account be set up for the money collected from provider workshops. The money will be saved for future workshop expenses or when Graustein money is no longer available. Ellen will check into this.
- 4. Action Plan** – Ellen Thompson has signed the contract with Web Solutions for the SRC website. The total cost of the project is \$7047. A deposit of \$2350 was made and two subsequent payments will be made as the project progresses. The domain name is www.hamdenkids.org or www.hamdenkids.com. The site will use red, yellow, blue and green. It will contain the town seal and the public schools logo.

5. Sub-Committee Updates

- A. **Steering Committee** – no report
- B. **Communications and Marketing Committee**- see Action Plan above
- C. **Program Committee** – The Program Committee is meeting directly after the SRC meeting on June 14 to discuss the Baby Welcome Packet project.
- D. **Research and Development Committee** – no report
- E. **Advocacy Committee** – no report

6. Community Reports

- A. **School Readiness Program** – LuAnn Gallichio is waiting to hear from the state to find out how much money they will get. The two School Readiness Programs will be in session throughout the summer.
- B. **Family Resource Center** – The Family Resource Center will receive 100,000 or \$102,000.
- C. **PACK** – The programs have had excellent attendance for the past three months. The mural was unveiled to the families on May 19 with sixty-four participants attending the great reception on that evening. The summer reading kick off begins on June 23. Parents and children attending PACK programs and taking part in summer reading will receive a back pack of materials promoting literacy and learning.
- D. **Facilitator** – An Administration of Medication Workshop was held on Monday, May 28 for center and home child care providers. Eleven participants attended and became certified in order to administer medication and epi-pen to the children in their care. Each participant received a packet of resources to use.

In June there were two eight-hour CT Child Care First Aid/CPR Workshops. One was held from 6:00-10:00 pm on Monday, June 6 and 13. The other was held from 8:00 am-4:00 pm on Saturday, June 11. A total of twenty participants attended and became certified in First Aid and CPR. Each participant received a pocket mask, first aid book and skills card.

- 7. **Graustein Report** – 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”. Susan Rubino and Karen Piedescalzo will attend.

The next Community Cohort Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14 from 1:30-4:00 pm at the GMF Office. It will be a technical assistance session on evaluation and data collection techniques.

The Discovery Conference will be held on Thursday, October 20 at the Farmington Marriott. More information will follow.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2005, at 9:00 A.M. at the Government Center Conference Room.