

**School Readiness Council
Hamden
Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2005**

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

- 1. Website Content** – Ellen Thompson, LuAnn Gallicchio, Susan Rubino and Karen Piedescalzo will meet to determine the website content. The Town of Hamden seal and the Hamden Public Schools seal will be incorporated into the website.
- 2. SRC Member List** – The member list was discussed and updated. Ellen will ask for a representative from the Board of Education. Karen will ask a child care director to join the SRC.

3. Sub-Committee Updates

A. Steering Committee – no report

B. Communications and Marketing Committee- see Website Content above

C. Program Committee – Louise Brundage shared some materials from the Baby Packets available through the library. These include pamphlets about reading, a bib and a hard cover book. The library gets a fifty percent discount on books or we can order books from Scholastic.

Susan Rubino shared some materials given out by Hamden Youth Services. These include pamphlets, magnets, memo board and a certificate for a free smoke alarm.

D. Research and Development Committee – no report

E. Advocacy Committee – no report

6. Community Reports

A. School Readiness Program – School Readiness Programs are getting a new program director at the SDE.

B. Family Resource Center – The Family Resource Center will receive 100,000 this year. Last year they also received an extra \$2250. This year the state can either disperse the extra money or open a new center.

Thunderbird Academy is the summer literacy program at Church Street School. There are eighty children enrolled. The program is free and offers school bus transportation. Parents are also attending Church Street School for an ESL program.

- C. PACK** – Last year there were seventy families signed up for PACK. This year there are one hundred families participating. There will be a Mexican Fiesta on Thursday, July 21 with food, songs, a craft and a story.

Children participating in both of the summer programs will receive a free backpack filled with school supplies.

- D. Facilitator** – In June there were two CT Child Care First Aid/CPR Workshops. The Discovery grant included the purchase of the workshop training videos. Chris Ely, workshop trainer, has told us that the videos are currently being updated. We will hold off purchasing the videos until the new version is released.

The United Way of Greater New Haven will host "S" is for Success on Wednesday, July 27 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Creating Kids Childcare Center at the Connecticut Children's Museum, 22 Wall Street, New Haven. They will celebrate the first Success By 6® Grant Awards. LuAnn and Karen will make a display board for the event.

The Child Care Expo will be held in March 2006. The Program Committee and the Child Care Directors will be involved in the planning. Karen will contact Miller Memorial Library to book the date.

- 7. Graustein Report** – The next Community Cohort A 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. Nobody from the SRC is able to attend this session.

There will be a new technical assistance opportunity available at the Graustein Memorial Fund offices. Using the Connecticut Preschool Curriculum and Assessment Framework will be held on Wednesday, July 20 from 12:0-2:30. LuAnn will attend.

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

