

**School Readiness Council
Hamden
Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2005**

Members present: Portia Bonner, Arlene Cassello, Jackie Downing, LuAnn Gallicchio, Mary Marrantino, Ellen Thompson, Virginia Wright-Younger, Catherine Bradshaw, GMF Consultant, and Karen Piedescalzo, facilitator

- 1. All Our Kin Network** – Tanya Michaelson, Network Director, gave a presentation on the All Our Kin Child Care Network. In the Network, home-based child care providers in the greater New Haven area commit to meeting nationally-recognized standards of quality care. Providers mature as educators and business people through ongoing professional development, technical assistance, curriculum development, marketing assistance, scholarships, informational meetings, program visits, phone support, trainings and workshops, and monthly provider meetings...all for free. The Network offers membership on two levels: Associate and Member. Associates have access to telephone support, trainings, and monthly meetings. Members have the same benefits as Associates along with in-home support, free materials, and scholarships for CDA training.

Nilda Aponte, Toolkit Box Coordinator, shared that the Family Child Care Toolkit Project has fifteen sets of toolkits to distribute to people in Hamden who are providing child care and would like to become licensed. Karen Piedescalzo will connect with Nilda to discuss inviting her to a meeting with Kith and Kin providers.

- 2. Website Content** – Susan Rubino is contacting community agencies to gather calendar events for children and families. Lisa Sizer wrote the website welcome letter. SRC members revised it and Karen Piedescalzo will email the final copy to Ellen Thompson. Karen updated the SRC member list and the resource list. The website is www.hamdenkids.org.

- 3. Sub-Committee Updates**

- A. Steering Committee** – no report

- B. Communications and Marketing Committee**- see Website Content above

- C. Program Committee** – LuAnn and Karen will meet to look through catalogs for board books for the Baby Welcome Packets.

- D. Research and Development Committee** – no report

- E. Advocacy Committee** – no report

4. Community Reports

- A. School Readiness Program** – Both School Readiness Programs are filled for September and there are thirty children on the waiting list.
- B. Family Resource Center** – The Family Resource Center is preparing for September. LuAnn Gallicchio received grant letters for both programs. Play Groups will be starting in a few weeks. The programs need extra state money.
- C. PACK** – no report
- D. Facilitator** – Workshops are currently being planned for the fall for both home and center child care providers. The home provider workshops will be held at Miller Memorial Library and the center provider workshops will be held at Church Street School. Karen has contacted Janna Wagner (All Our Kin), Jennifer Martin (DCF) and Shari Konn-Andrade (United Way-Infoline) to discuss dates and topics for the trainings.

Karen has been calling home providers and delivering resource binders to them. A meeting is being planned for home providers and the end of August.

- 5. Graustein Report** – The next Regional Learning Circle will be held on Tuesday, September 13 from 5:30-8:30 pm at the GMF Office and the topic will be "Community Mobilization". Hamden may send up to five people to the meeting. RSVP to Jackie Downing.

The Graustein Memorial Fund will be developing a new self-assessment form for this year.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2005, at 9:00 A.M. at the Government Center Conference Room.

