

School Readiness Council Meeting

Friday, August 28, 2015

9:00 a.m.

Special Education Conference Room

Gilead Hill School

Present: Patricia Buell (Co-Chair Hebron Board of Education), Donna Lanza (Co-Chair Town of Hebron), Marilyn Piecuch (School Readiness Liaison), Carol Connolly (Hebron Board of Education Liaison), Michelle Hamilton (AHM Program Director), Heather Holbrook (KinderRHAMa PreK Teacher), Cari Duigou (KinderRHAMa PreK Teacher)

Introduction of Council Members

Comments:

Donna Lanza proposed that we post the School Readiness Meeting Agenda and approval of School Readiness Minutes on the school/town website. Donna would like to see more community involvement. **Once Agenda and minutes are approved Nancy Simmons will post on school website. Nancy will send agenda and minutes to Donna to post on Town website.**

Enrollment Update:

Patti Buell reported there are currently 14 School Readiness students enrolled and 4 income eligible slots still open. Patti Buell and Marilyn Piecuch made many phone calls to parents on prek waiting list to see if they could place any income eligible children in the SR Program.

Patti explained that we are paid by the state (grant) \$6,000.00 per student and would like to see 18 students in the SR Program to ensure we receive all funding. It should be noted that out of the 18 students 60% have to be income eligible. The state can come in and ask about our recruitment policy. The state ultimately has the right to take funding away if our program is not full at 18 students. We have to show our efforts in recruitment. Carol Connolly questioned if money can really be taken from grant if class is not full. **Patti and Marilyn will investigate and report back to the council at the next meeting.** Carol Connolly stated that if a preK student attends a magnet school the school district has to pay \$6,000.00 per student. She would like to keep prek students in Hebron.

SR Board agreed to expand PreK and provide more opportunities for children without hurting other area programs.

Recruitment:

It was suggested to contact Kim Bowers at HIHS to refer any families that might be SR income eligible. **Patti Buell will contact HIHS.**

KinderRHAMa reported as of today's meeting that they have 8 open slots.

It was suggested to share information about all town prek programs to help "spread the word". The School Readiness Program might work better for one family but KinderRHAMA might work better for another family. We need to be educated about prek choices so that we can educate our families and recruit at the same time.

If was discussed to invite more members to the SR Council. Suggestions were Kim Bowers (HIHS), church involvement, parents, nurse/pediatrican, local daycare centers and home daycare. **Patti Buell will work on a letter to send home to current SR PreK parents asking them to consider joining our SR Council.**

Donna Lanza will contact Geeta at the Rivereast and ask her to write an article to explain our School Readiness Program and the role of the School Readiness Council. It's a community grant not just a Gilead Hill School PreK Grant.

Budget

Patti Buell reported that she does not have specific numbers. Approximately \$700.00 went back to the state due to the fact that professional development was not accessed in time. **Nancy Simmons will contact Barbara Wilson to get electronic reports concerning grant and budget. Nancy will get information to Patti.**

It was discussed that there should be a Treasurer's Report at each monthly meeting. Marilyn Piecuch will report each month. We will also look carefully at SR teacher's insurance money each month that it is not taken. At this time SR teacher does not take insurance but we do have to have a placeholder in the case that he takes the insurance.

Patti Buell asked the committee permission to pay Barbara Wilson a stipend of \$865.38 for her summer work on the School Readiness Program. No discussion. Carol Connolly motioned to pay Barbara Wilson a stipend of \$865.38 for her summer work on the School Readiness Program. Donna Lanza seconded.

Nancy Simmons will request check and send to Barbara Wilson.

HECC Program Update

A new PreK full day class was created. HECC classes are as follows:

- 1 Full Day School Readiness Class
- 1 Full Day PreK Class
- 1 ½ Day Prek Class (am)
- 1 ½ Day PreK Class (pm)

It was discussed to move PreK Lottery to April instead of June.

Marilyn Piecuch asked the committee that if we do not fill all SR slots would we consider having students from other local towns? If a child needed special services the town they resided in would have to pay. We're looking for children who are income eligible. **Patti Buell will like to look at this.** We would reach out to our community first. Andover has a School Readiness Program at this time. Carol Connolly motioned to accept income eligible students for School Readiness Program through local communities limited to Marlborough, Bolton, Columbia and Glastonbury at the discretion of the council on an individual basis. Patti Buell seconded. All members were in favor.

NAEYC

Carol Connolly would like to recognize the Council and PreK Teachers for all their hard work getting NAEYC Accredited. She would like a ribbon cutting ceremony with a NAEYC Accredited sign under our Gilead Hill School sign.

Selection Process

Carol Connolly would like Teachers in the Hebron School District to get a preK slot for their child(ren) even if they do not live in the District. **Patti Buell will explore this option and report back to the Committee.**

Meeting Dates for 2015-2016 School Year

Tuesday, September 22
Tuesday, October 27
Tuesday, December 1
Tuesday, January 19
Tuesday, February 23
Tuesday, March 29
Tuesday, April 26
Tuesday, May 24
Tuesday, June 7
Tuesday, August 29

All meeting times will be at 4:00 in different community locations. **Nancy will reach out to council/community members to see who can host each meeting.**

Meeting Adjourned 10:30 a.m.



AHM Family Resource Center Newsletter

Fall 2015

The AHM Family Resource Center is a collaborative effort among AHM Youth Services, Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough schools, and the State Department of Education. Funding is provided through a grant from the State Department of Education.

Home Visits We offer home visits, **free of charge**, using the *National Parents as Teachers* curriculum. A trained Parent Educator will visit your home once each month to talk to you about your child's development, do an activity, and bring handouts or other requested materials. All families living in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, with children ages Birth through 5, are eligible for this service. Please call Becky Murray at (860) 228-9488 or Laurie Larsen at (860) 228-0871 if you would like more information.

Play and Learn Groups meet at the Family Resource Center at Gilead Hill School. Parents and children participate in activities, crafts, snack, and circle time. Groups are 1 hour and 15 minutes, once a week

Fall Session: 9/14/15-1/15/16

Cost: Fall session is \$100/family. (Families wishing to participate and experiencing financial hardship may request a fee reduction.)

Registration will be held on 9/1 from 9:00-11:00 in the FRC at Gilead Hill School. For further information, please contact Laurie Larsen at 228-0871 or lauriel@ahmyouth.org.

Play and Learn Group Times

All groups are multi-age unless otherwise noted.

Mondays 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday 1:30 PM 3 and 4 year olds

Thursdays 9:00 A.M.

Fridays 9:00 A.M., 10:30 A.M.

AHM Family Resource Center Staff:

Becky Murray-FRC Coordinator

Laurie Larsen-Parent Educator, Mentoring Facilitator

Leslie Capozza-Play and Learn Assistant

Cari Duigou- KinderRHAMa Preschool Teacher

Heather Holbrook- KinderRHAMa Preschool Teacher

Conscious Discipline Workshop for Parents and Early Care Providers

This research based program, developed by Dr. Becky Bailey, focuses on teaching self-control, conflict resolution, character development, and social skills.

Topics include:

- How brain development affects emotions and behavior
- Encouraging children and helping them make good choices
- Developing Empathy children and adults
- Setting Limits Effectively

AHM Building, 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron

Wednesdays: 10/7, 11/4, 12/2, 1/6 and 2/3

6:00-7:00 PM View DVD

7:00-8:00 PM Discussion and application to real-life situations.

Cost: \$10 for the series. Registration is required.

Please contact Becky at (860) 228-9488 or beckym@ahmyouth.org

Book Discussion: Mind in the Making

Author and educator Ellen Galinsky takes the most important findings of developmental psychology and discusses how we can help children in developing these skills. Whether you are a parent, an educator, or an interested community member, we would love your input! Children are welcome.

Wednesdays, 10/14, 10/28 and 11/18 from 9:30-10:30 AM at the FRC at Gilead Hill School in Hebron. Please call Becky at 228-9488 to register.

Cost: \$10 for the series, includes book



Free Developmental Screenings

For families with children ages Birth-3. These are a fun and easy way to chart your child's progress in different developmental areas. Screening takes 45 minutes to 1 hour and can be done in your home or at the FRC at Gilead Hill School, whichever you prefer. Please contact Laurie at (860) 228-0871 or lauriel@ahmyouth.org or Becky at (860) 228-9488 or beckym@ahmyouth.org



Safe Home Alone Readiness

Program For Children Ages 10 and up

Presented by Mindy Johnston of Safety for Youth and Adults, (SEYA), this four-hour program prepares children to be safe when staying home alone. Through role playing, hands-on activities, and speakers from local police and fire departments, children will learn basic fire, medical and personal safety tips.

AHM Youth & Family Services on Mondays, 9/21 and 9/28 from 5:00-6:30 PM, and Monday, 10/5 from 5:00-6:00(Graduation) At least 1 parent should attend graduation.

Cost: \$35/child, including materials.

Registration is required by calling Becky at 228-9488 and registration form with payment (available online) to AHM. Please call Becky or email her at beckym@ahmyouth.org with questions.

Lanterns Mentoring Program:

This program matches up trained adult volunteer mentors with school aged children. Mentoring takes place at the child's school during school hours and provides children with friendship and support. If you are interested in the mentoring program and would like more information, please call Laurie Larsen at 228-0871 or lauriel@ahmyouth.org.



KinderRHAMa Preschool Program

This collaborative program between AHM Youth & Family Services and RHAM High School is for children ages 3-4 and is held at RHAM. Two qualified teachers run the classroom, and RHAM students taking coursework in Child Development assist in the program. 3 year olds attend on T/Th from 8:30-12 PM, and 4 year olds on M/W/F 8:30-1:00 PM. Before care (7:00A.M.-8:30 A.M.) and After care (12:00 P.M. or 1:00 P.M.-2:30 P.M.) are available for an additional fee. As of this time, a few spaces remain for the 2015-2016 School year.



Upcoming Fundraisers to support

AHM join us for a scrumptious dinner at Gina Marie's Restaurant on August 31, and Fall Foliage Concert/Auction at AHM on October 17. Please call 228-9488 or check out our website for more info!

Important Phone Numbers, Websites

AHM Youth Services (860) 228-9488,

www.ahmyouth.org

A variety of services, including counseling for children and families.



Birth to Three 1-800-505-7000,

www.birth23.org

Screening and services for developmental delays in toddlers and infants.

Access Health CT: Health Care for CT residents

<https://www.accesshealthct.com/AHCT/LandingPageCTHIX>

The next Open Enrollment period, for 2016 coverage, begins on 11/1/15 and ends on 1/31/16.

CT Safe Kids <http://www.ctsafekids.org/>.

Information about safety, including car seat checks.

CT Parent Advocacy Center

<http://www.cpacinc.org> Toll-Free: 800-445-2722

or 860-739-3089 . A statewide nonprofit organization that offers information and support to families of children with any disability or chronic illness, age birth through 26.

Infoline- Dial 211 from anywhere in CT.

Resources for a wide variety of services, including child care, support groups, and recreational programs. <http://www.211ct.org/default.asp>

Child Development Infoline

<http://www.ctunitedway.org/cdi.html>

1-800-505-7000 CDI care coordinators provide education on development, behavior management strategies and programs, make referrals to services, and provide advocacy and follow-up as needed.

Out and About Mom

<http://www.outandaboutmom.com/>

A very comprehensive guide to many different activities for families with kids of all ages. Includes detailed info about parking, food, restrooms, prices, and stroller accessibility.

Parents as Teachers

<http://www.parentsasteachers.org/>

Parents as Teachers helps organizations and professionals work with parents during the critical early years of their children's lives, from conception to kindergarten.

School Readiness



OBJECTIVE

A state-funded initiative administered by the Department of Education that develops a network of school readiness programs to:

- Provide open access for children to quality programs that promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal schooling;
- Provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable and accredited programs;
- Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and prevent the duplication of services;
- Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the implementation of programs;
- Prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delay in children prior to their reaching the age of five;
- Enhance federally funded school readiness programs;
- Strengthen the family through: (A) Encouragement of parental involvement in a child's development and education; and (B) enhancement of a family's capacity to meet the special needs of the children, including children with disabilities;
- Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special education services for school age children and to avoid grade repetition;
- Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into programs available to children who are not disabled; and
- Improve the availability and quality of school readiness programs and their coordination with the services of child care providers.

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OVERVIEW

Established in 1997 under P.A. 97-259, An Act Concerning School Readiness and Child Day Care and encoded in the CT General Statutes C.G.S. 10-16p - 10-16u, the legislation established a grant program to provide spaces in NAEYC accredited or Federal Head Start approved programs for eligible children in priority school districts and competitive grant municipalities.

Priority School Districts

These districts receive a grant allocation for spaces for eligible children who reside in priority school districts, that is based on the formula that uses the March 30 space count of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid, plus or minus the current space requests, multiplied by the per child cost space rate.



School Readiness



Competitive Grant Municipalities

This is a competitive grant program for spaces for eligible children who reside in an area served by a priority school (severe need school) or in a town ranked 1 to 50 when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town wealth. Each eligible municipality or regional school system may apply for a grant in an amount of \$107,000 dollars.

Grant awards are made annually to eligible communities, for a period of five years. The chief elected official and the superintendent of schools jointly submit a plan for the expenditure of the funds and the responses to the local request for proposals process.

To review the RFP for School Readiness for Priority School Districts or Competitive Grants, please refer to the RFP button on the School Readiness web page.

SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL

The chief elected official and the superintendent of schools jointly appoint and convene a school readiness council with the responsibility of making recommendations on issues relating to school readiness including the application for school readiness grants. The school readiness council is composed of the chief elected official or designee, the superintendent of schools or management level staff person, parents, a representative of a community health care provider, a librarian, representatives from programs such as Head Start, family resource centers, nonprofit and for profit child-care centers, group day-care homes, pre-kindergarten and nursery schools and family day care home providers representatives from the community who provide services to children.

ELIGIBILITY

Resident children in an eligible community who are ages 3 and 4 years of age and children age 5 years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school may enroll in a school readiness program. Under C.G.S. Sec 10-16t, a school readiness council may elect to reserve 5 percent of its spaces for 5-year-olds eligible to enroll in school provided they have been in the program for one year and the parent or legal guardian, the school readiness provider and local or regional school district agree that the child is not ready for kindergarten and the parent signs the public school option form exempting his/her child from attendance at the public school.

At least 60 percent of the children enrolled must be at or below 75 percent of the State Median Income.

PROGRAM TYPES

Full-day/Full-year Programs	Those programs providing services for 10 hours per day for 50 weeks per year. Reimbursed at \$8,346 per child in the Priority School Districts.
School-Day/School-Year Programs	Those programs providing services for 6 hours per day for 180 consecutive days. Reimbursed at \$6,000 per child in the Priority School Districts.
Part-Day/Part-Year Programs	Those programs providing services for at least 2.5 hours per day for 180 consecutive days. Reimbursed at \$4,500 per child in the Priority School Districts.
Extended-Day Programs	This program is only available in the priority school districts. Those programs who provide services that extend the hours, days and/or weeks of programming for children who are in an existing part time program not funded by School Readiness dollars, in order to provide those children with a full time program of 10 hours per day for 50 weeks. Reimbursed at \$2,772 per child.

Competitive municipalities have the flexibility to determine the per-child rates. All programs must charge parent fees, based on the DSS School Readiness Sliding Fee Scale, and/or use the child-care subsidy certificates from the Care4Kids program. School Readiness Councils may exempt part-day programs from charging parent fees. Exempt programs are not eligible for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

School Readiness



REQUIREMENTS

In the Priority School Districts, the school readiness council shall issue a local request for proposals to identify and fund local early care and education providers to provide school readiness and child day care spaces. After a review by the council to ensure that the proposals address all the requirements of the school readiness legislation, the school readiness council shall, within their allocation, purchase capacity in public schools, for profit and non profit early childhood programs, Head Start and state funded day care programs. All programs must either be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or complete that process within three years of being awarded the funds, or receive Federal Head Start funding. At least 50 percent of the spaces in a priority community must be full-day/full-year spaces.

Funded competitive grant municipalities must provide a minimum of 13 full-day, full-year spaces for children in the town enrollment area. A town or school readiness council may file a waiver application to the Department of Education for the purpose of seeking approval of a school readiness schedule that varies from the minimum hours and number of days and maximizes available dollars to serve more children or address community needs. The school readiness council may purchase capacity in early care and education programs such as public schools, for profit and non profit early childhood programs, Head Start and state funded day care programs. These programs must be accredited by NAEYC or complete the process within three years of being awarded the funds, or receive Federal Head Start funding.

QUALITY COMPONENTS

The legislation has identified specific requirements for school readiness programs as part of the continuum of services in quality programs that meet the needs of children and families. These indicators include:

- A plan for collaboration with other community programs and services, including public libraries and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate full-day and year-round child-care and education programs for children of working parents and parents in education or training programs;
- Parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
- Referrals for health service, including referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings;
- Nutrition services;
- Referrals to family literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;
- Admission policies that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other communities;
- A plan of transition for participating children from the school readiness program to kindergarten and provide for the transfer of records from the program to the kindergarten program;
- A plan for professional development for staff;
- A sliding fee scale for families participating in the program;
- An annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program; and
- A plan to ensure that children with disabilities are integrated into programs with children who are not disabled.

School Readiness

FY 2014 GRANTS

Priority Communities	Grant Amount	Competitive Grant Municipalities	Grant Amount
Ansonia	\$1,121,261	Andover	\$ 107,000
Bloomfield	578,082	Ashford	107,000
Bridgeport	11,416,972	Beacon Falls	75,000
Bristol	2,384,314	Brooklyn	107,000
Danbury	3,213,370	Canterbury	107,000
East Hartford	2,520,424	Chaplin	107,000
Hartford	11,630,896	Colchester	107,000
Meriden	3,303,592	Coventry	107,000
Middletown	1,992,550	Derby	107,000
New Britain	4,304,602	Eastford	96,000
New Haven	7,814,020	East Haven	257,024
New London	1,266,766	Ellington	74,500
Norwalk	4,360,660	Enfield	207,152
Norwich	1,918,398	Greenwich	215,498
Putnam	460,882	Griswold	214,958
Stamford	3,793,840	Groton	297,620
Waterbury	9,706,828	Hamden	199,940
West Haven	1,850,662	Hampton	107,000
Windham	1,255,996	Hebron	107,000
Total (Pre-CHEFA)	\$74,894,115	Killingly	174,500
		Lebanon	107,000
		Ledyard	215,000
		Lisbon	107,000
		Manchester	129,566
		Mansfield	107,000
		Milford	187,580
		Naugatuck	270,110
		North Canaan	107,000
		Plainfield	132,038
		Plainville	107,000
		Plymouth	107,000
		Scotland	107,000
		Seymour	107,000
		Shelton	107,000
		Sprague	107,000
		Stafford	107,000
		Sterling	107,000
		Stratford	185,000
		Thomaston	107,000
		Thompson	107,000
		Torrington	188,720
		Vernon	174,500
		Voluntown	90,000
		West Hartford *	278,460
		Winchester	225,440
		Windsor	165,392
		Windsor Locks	107,000
		Wolcott	107,000
		Total	\$6,835,998

* \$88,000 Funded through PSD

RESOURCES

GENERAL POLICY AND PROGRAM OPERATION DOCUMENTS

These documents are issued to provide guidance to councils and providers around school readiness policies and procedures.

Technical Assistance documents are issued to give guidance to programs on early childhood topics such as ADA and IDEA in preschools, Transition to Kindergarten, Parent Involvement and Nutrition.

CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

CHEFA Bonding and Loan Program

Funds are available to early childhood programs through the CHEFA to fund renovations and construction for early care and education facilities. For information concerning funding, contact CHEFA at 860-520-4001.

SCHOOL FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

Each town or regional school district may apply for a grant for a school building project. If a town or regional school district's project is a new building or expansion of an existing building for an elementary school and it includes space for a school readiness program, the percentage that the local board of education is eligible to receive shall be increased by five percentage points but shall not exceed one hundred per cent, for the portion of the building used primarily for such purpose. For further information contact the Department of Construction Services, School Facilities at 860-713-6480.



School Readiness

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Supplemental grants are available to school readiness municipalities to improve the quality and comprehensiveness of school readiness programs. These grants are awarded annually and require an application from the community in response to a state Request for Proposal (RFP).

FY 2014	Amount	FY 2014	Amount
Andover	\$ 4,331	New Britain	53,271
Ansonia	6,447	New Haven	108,583
Beacon Falls	4,331	New London	17,226
Bloomfield	8,035	North Canaan	4,331
Bridgeport	134,851	Norwalk	50,282
Bristol	25,024	Norwich	20,120
Chaplin	4,331	Plainfield	4,331
Colchester	4,331	Plainville	4,331
Coventry	4,331	Plymouth	4,331
Danbury	33,206	Putnam	6,447
Derby	4,331	Scotland	4,331
Eastford	4,331	Seymour	4,331
East Hartford	28,340	Shelton	4,331
East Haven	4,331	Sprague	4,331
Ellington	4,331	Stafford	4,331
Enfield	4,331	Stamford	65,335
Greenwich	4,331	Sterling	4,331
Griswold	4,331	Stratford	4,331
Groton	4,331	Thomaston	4,331
Hamden	4,331	Torrington	\$8,729
Hampton	4,331	Vernon	4,331
Hartford	150,125	Voluntown	4,331
Killingly	4,331	Waterbury	100,918
Lebanon	4,331	West Hartford	4,331
Ledyard	4,331	West Haven	33,318
Lisbon	4,331	Winchester	4,331
Mansfield	4,331	Windham	13,963
Meriden	37,807	Windsor	4,331
Middletown	25,380	Windsor Locks	4,331
Milford	4,331	Wolcott	4,331
Naugatuck	4,331	Total	\$ 1,104,978

LINKAGES

Accreditation Facilitation Project - <http://www.ctcharts.org/>

This statewide initiative provides intensive support to programs seeking National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation.

Connecticut Charts-A-Course - <http://www.ctcharts.org/>

Connecticut Charts-A-Course strives to bring professionalism to the field of early education and school-age care by promoting the following:

- career development ladder for individuals working in all child-care settings;
- professional recognition for training;
- training that can be applied toward a CDA credential and college credit;
- high-quality training and trainers; and
- financial assistance towards training, education and national accreditation to child-care centers.