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New London School Readiness Council Meeting

September 11, 2023

Zoom

12:00 -1:09 pm

Notes

Attendance: Tina Salcedo, Kelly Davis, Erin Mokler, Angela Rasmussen, Jersa Valencia, Kate O'Connor, Barbara- Book Lady, Cindy Barry-Ledge Light, Cynthia Ritchie, Laurelle Texidor, Marissa Owsianik, Robin Pierce, Jennifer Zubek, Tanya Pegnataro, Zoe Hayn, Andrea Watson, Debbi Poirier, Kate O'Connor, CDA- Roberta Travers, Brittany Watts

Agenda Item		Comments/desired outcomes
Opening		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Jersa Valencia! He will be taking over the early childhood role for Angela as she shifts her focus to secondary education. Intros followed. BP started school today! Linda Hunter Williams is no longer with Mitchell. The new director will start next week. Kelly has been having conversations with administration to facilitate a smooth transition for the School Readiness responsibilities. New RSV vaccine coming out this year. Flu vaccine is currently coming out. COVID vaccine is coming out soon as well. The state is working to ensure the vaccine will be free. ECE LISTSERV- you can get on this list to get this information sent to you. Vaccines, timelines, and other information to stay compliant with the state mandates. Blue Ribbon Panel- discussions and brainstorming about how to create a business type model for schools and centers. How to create partnerships with area companies/businesses to provide childcare. A representative from EASTCONN is representing our region. Meeting regarding BRP is Wednesday September 13- 2-4pm @ Three Rivers
Enrollment Share Out		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process for the restoration of slots- slots do not have to go to the centers they came from, however they cannot currently be sent to centers not currently approved School Readiness slots. The slots can also be converted to best suit the center(s) they go to (part day/part year, etc.). They can be assigned to the centers that are the best fit. Kelly shared her screen to display specific information of how this process works. Kelly will



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		<p>resend the document with the minutes to ensure everyone has this information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tina shared yard signs have been posted throughout the community. The website is now working, and since the signs have gone out there have been some contacts sent through the site. She expressed concern that there are some struggles with getting back to those families. • Cynthia requested slot allocation reports be sent out monthly. • Suggestion of a process to be put in place where NLPS, as well as other centers, can share their waiting lists, so other centers can work together to help fill slots and placements for these families before slots can potentially be lost. • Awareness needs to be shared with families in need of how School Readiness works. -Sliding scale, application process • Getting physicals are causing barriers too- paperwork fees, waiting for appointments • Consideration to create a bulletin flier for parents so they can become aware/prepared for their responsibilities before their child can actually be enrolled in a program.
Community Updates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Neff put out an application for the Halloween Town event • Baby shower for prenatal moms at the library 20th- setup around 12:30 • BP Event is Oct. 4 @ 5pm- Theme-Friends, Social Emotional Skills • Upcoming Oct. 11 8-9AM Zoom Asthma and Immunization meeting- reach out to Cindy from Ledge Light for link
Curriculum Committee		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .Committee continues to meet • Oct. 21st is date set for the unconference • All are welcome to attend the meetings-just send out a request and an invite will be sent
Safe Futures Parent Focus Group		



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Collaborative Grant Updates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant was submitted. It is a small grant. If the grant money is received, parent cafe events will be held. Once Kelly is informed of the status, she will reach out.
Program Sharing/General Updates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many early childhood clinicians hired- Contact Marissa Owsianik if you have a family in need.
Parent Ambassadors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no current parent ambassadors in attendance. Kelly shared her screen to display the Parent Ambassador Application We can have two or three stipend parent ambassadors They need to be parents of school readiness aged children Kelly will share the application out with the council should any one know of someone who may be interested.