

East Haven Early Childhood Collaborative Tuesday, January 13, 2010 12:00PM Hagaman Library

Thanks to the following members for taking time in their busy schedules to attend the January EHECC meeting: Karen Schmidt, Marion Burkardt, Cathy Finkle, Laura DePonte, Mary Cofrancesco, Mary Varunes, Catherine Bradshaw, Alice Torres, Bob Petrucelli and Paul Perrelli.

I. TRANSITION BUDGET

This year's funding will be much different from past years. The Graustein Memorial Fund has been affected by the downturn in the economy as other organizations and individuals have been this past year. Funding was granted on a competitive basis for those communities that are prepared to enter or are currently participating in community planning. Members of our collaborative felt we were not ready to enter this phase of funding. As a result, we selected a third option, which provides \$7,500.00 for EHECC to organize parent engagement activities during 2010. Graustein's RFP process will be delayed causing them to issue what is called Transition Grant Funds to all communities working with Graustein. The East Haven Early Childhood Collaborative was granted a total of \$5227.40 in transition funds to continue work on the current action plan. This money was issued to all communities for the first three months of 2010 giving GMF's administrative members time to approve the competitive grant funds for communities. Therefore, in April 2010, EHECC will receive the \$7,500.00 to carry on with parent engagement. Plans for these funds will be committed to Week of the Young Child and People Empowering People--a program developed for parent empowerment training.

II. TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN UPDATE

Members of this sub committee are currently organizing a preschool parent evening to help parents prepare their young children for the start of their school experience. The evening is planned for this Tuesday, January 19 at the Joseph Melillo Middle School Auditorium from 6:30-8:30 P. M. Noted speaker, Scott Noyes will present that evening. Free child care will be available. Ads were taken out, flyers were sent out to parents and a Connect-ED notification is planned.

This meeting is one of three in the series of preschool meetings designed

to reach parents of preschoolers to better prepare their children for Kindergarten. The tentative dates for the next two meetings are Wednesday, February 10 and Wednesday, March 10 2010.

III. HEALTH MEETING PLANS

Attempts were made in December to conduct a health fact finding meeting with local doctors and nurses. It proved difficult to get these people in the same room at a given time. There are current plans to meet with doctors individually at their convenience so that we can get their thoughts on the most pressing health issues facing the children of East Haven. From there, we hope to develop objectives and strategies to meet the health needs of children. We plan to start with Dr. Kennedy at East Haven Pediatrics and a date is currently being worked out to meet with her in the near future.

IV. SCHOOL READINESS REPORT

Mary Varunes has sent out questionnaires to preschools to determine the amount of early care space available in town. This is a request from the state to all FRC's. The report is due by February 16. Mary reports that the next state School Readiness meeting is next week. The FRC now has a 19 1/2 hour parent educator. Currently there is low parent attendance due to the late hiring of the person in that position. She will be making home visits and conducting parent education classes at the FRC. Due to her part-time status, hours will be limited. It was suggested that the FRC put an ad on the school website to alert parents that a new parent educator is available to meet with parents.

V. WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD/P. E. P. PLANNING

The Week of the Young Child is usually celebrated the week of April 11. This coincides with the April vacation for East Haven Schools. There is a tentative date set for Saturday, April 24 at Overbrook School. The next planning meeting for WYC will be February 4, 9:30 A.M. at Overbrook School.

Plans for People Empowering People--a parent empowerment training program-- are currently being formed. A trainer is currently being sought. The tentative site for the next training is the Adult Education Center on Dodge Avenue in East Haven. The course will run for ten consecutive weeks and the evening will be selected after speaking with the director of the program. Advertising must be sent out along with one-to-one conversations in order to fill enrollment.

VI. WEBSITE UPDATE

Fran Foley, our website coordinator, is currently unable to access our website at www.easthavenkids.org. It is presumed that a site registration fee must be paid. No one in our organization had received any notification for payment and there is an effort to contact our previous website coordinator for this information. We hope to have it up and running in the near future.

NEXT MEETING OF THE EHECC WILL BE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010, 12:00-1:30 P. M. AT THE HAGAMAN LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM. HOPE TO SEE YOU THEN.