

Program Quality
Thursday, May 18, 2023

Present: Renee Dailey, Maureen Eaton, Michelle Fangiullo, Jackie Furniss, Wendy McGrath, Donna Osuch, Kristen Peck, Pam Testa, Rachael Witkewicz
Absent: Val Pelletier

Welcome and Introductions: Welcome again to Michelle Fangiullo, newly appointed Director at INMELC, and to Laurie Nadeau, who moved from Head Teacher to Asst. Director this week

Staffing and enrollment update:

- **Staffing:**
 - BOE fully staffed
 - BCDC looking for a teacher and assistant for the new waddler room and two toddler assistant teachers
 - INMELC needs one assistant teacher and subs
- **Enrollment:**
 - BOE has ten openings (139/149)
 - BCDC is full (124/124 preschool) and needs staff to open new waddler room (47/56)
 - INMELC is full (119/119 preschool and 8/8 infant toddler)
- **BristolWorks:**
 - First class completed, and next two classes start next week
 - Planning for new fall cohort now (contact Kim Holley k.holley@bristolworksct.org or 860-634-5333 to get on waitlist)

OEC/Other Updates:

- **School Readiness Grant** – submitted to OEC on April 28, 2023
- **OEC ARPA Grant** - OEC still reviewing applications
- **Enrollment Grant** – some legislators want to bundle this grant with regular School Readiness grant to ensure programs receive their funding in a more timely manner
- **Program Leadership Initiative** - will offer two classes this summer through Charter Oak - reach out to Christina Gademsky Christina.Gademsky@ct.gov for more information; scholarships are available
- **OEC Marketing** - liaisons met with O'Donnell Marketing to share concerns - hoping for a state-wide campaign and material templates we can customize
- **Blue Ribbon Panel for Early Childhood** - Donna attended Workforce and Quality Community Convening May 11th in Norwalk. There was a panel of speakers talking about workforce issues, and we all attended a breakout session about it. But the highlight was Dr. Junlei Li from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He talked about research he's done to answer the question how we achieve quality with equity, and he shared the impact of caregiving resulting in adult brains changing. He discussed rebalancing: ratings and relationships, compliance and trust, and credentials and community.
- **Wage Support** – OEC said that checks had gone out or were going out, and funds must be distributed to staff within 45 days of receipt of the check
- **COLA** - OEC emailed yesterday that they intend to offer COLAs this year and next year but have not released specifics

Legislative Session:

- Negotiations underway for the budget
- Merrill advocating that Enrollment Grant be combined with SR Grant to increase full-day/full-year reimbursement rate to \$10,500 with almost no financial impact (would only need approx. \$500,000 of unspent SR funds), BUT would mean part-day/part-year programs would not receive Enrollment Grant

Kindergarten Registration and Ready4K:

- Donna will send Kindergarten transition forms to BOE as soon as receives them from remaining programs

Professional Development:

- August Professional Development through EC Consortium
 - Monday, August 21, 2023, from 8:30-11:30 - Tunxis will provide breakfast
 - Trauma informed practice by Peg Oliveira from Yale's Gesell Institute of Child Development
 - 3 additional 90-minute evenings with Peg scheduled in September, October and December
- CLASS - Donna will host a meeting with those who completed the training to see how we can work together within the community

Classroom Observations:

- Rachael receiving fewer requests for early intervention observations and has observed 41 children and continues to monitor 12 this year
- Last year, Rachael observed 30 children and monitored 10

Financials:

- Donna will call a meeting of directors and finance staff to discuss end of year reporting.

Next Meeting Date June 8, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

September 8, 2022 at 9:30 on Zoom

October 13, 2022 at 9:30 on Zoom

November 10, 2022 at 9:30 on Zoom

December 8, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

January 12, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

February 9, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

March 9, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

April 13, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

May 11, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

June 8, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Osuch