

Enfield School Readiness Council
And
KITE Collaborative
at the
Hazardville Fire Department
Wednesday, March 10, 2010 5:30p.m.

The mission of KITE is to ensure that all families with young children in Enfield have knowledge of and access to quality early care and educational opportunities both in and outside of the home.

In Attendance: There were 27 people in attendance.

Amy Morales – Family Resource Center	Phyllis Phelan – Here Wee Grow
Amy Witbro – Enfield Public Schools	Patti Glaspie – Here Wee Grow
Kathy Tallarita – State Representative	Pam Brown – Dir. Of Social Services
Don Ellis – Enfield Fire Department	Stacy Thurston – Board of Education
Christie Michaud – Moms Club	Lori Clavette – CHC – Mobile Dental
Henry Dutcher – Enfield Public Library	Melissa Thibeault – CHC – Mobile Dental
Ashley Buck – EPS – Alcorn K	Chris Gomeau – KITE
Kate Faherty - FRC	Karen Weseliza - KITE
Julie Carroll - EPS	Karen Edelson - ECDC
Debbie Clement – Head Start	Jack Flanagan – Hazardville Fire Dept
Renee Schools - Parent	Betsy Bergman – MOMs Club/Parent
Midge Pych – E.W. FRC	Alison Keller – United Way
Lori Heacox – Enfield Resident	Polly Parker – Asnuntuck Comm. College
Laurie Schaefer – DOC – Osborn State Teacher	

I. Welcome and Introductions-Karen Weseliza

Karen opened the meeting @ 5:50 by welcoming everyone. Introductions were made. There were no children in child care. Karen read a note from State Rep. Karen Jarmoc thanking KITE for their participation in the Early Childhood Summit.

II. Acceptance of Minutes from the February 3, 2009 KITE Meeting

There was one correction to the February minutes. Polly Parker was in attendance and was not listed. The correction will be made and the minutes were accepted.

III. School Readiness Business/Update – Karen Edelson

Karen reported that the 20 (15 + 5) are filled. The 5 additional slots are through June. After June they will go back to their original form of funding.

IV. KITE Updates:

a. Leadership Committee Updates

- **Community Planning Grant Status:** Chris reported that the application to the Memorial Fund for our Community Planning Grant has been submitted. It was due by the 26th of February. The new grant period will begin on April 1, 2010. We should hear if we were awarded the grant sometime between April 1 and April 15th.
- **Collaborative Sponsor Change:** Karen W. reported that going forward into the Community Plan Development the role of the Collaborative Agent will be changing. The

new role which is called the Collaborative Sponsor will be taken on by the No. Central United Way. KITE welcomes and will be working with Alison Keller from the United Way. Brian McCartney was recognized for all of the work he has done for KITE.

- **Early Childhood Summit – February 6, 2010:** Chris gave a recap of the ECS which was held on Saturday, February 6th. Karen Jarmoc, along with KITE and the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance hosted the Summit. David Nee from the WCGMF and Ann Pratt from the CECA were guest speakers. Several members of KITE were in attendance. Amy Morales handed out a copy of the article printed in the Reminder News.

b. Committees and Work Groups Updates

Committees:

- **Transition to Kindergarten/Quality Enhancement:** Kate Faherty reported that they have edited and updated the Kindergarten Readiness Form. They will be mailed out to all providers including home care. They are finishing up the creation of a form for parents on kindergarten readiness. Kindergarten Registration begins the week of April 12th. The Week of the Young Child is going to be April 12-16. They will be having the preschool classroom at the Enfield Square center court again this year. They are looking for volunteers to help with the week's events. Amy Witbro reported that in conjunction with the EPS they have developed a Preschool Information Sheet that each parent/guardian will fill out when they register their children for kindergarten. This will provide specific information on early education experiences for the incoming kindergarten class. Also, the Kindergarten Math Curriculum night was a success. Centers that participated left with a lot of material. Also in conjunction with the EPS they will be holding a workshop on the Lively Letters curriculum on the 23rd of March. They will have LL starter packs for up to 10 preschool/day care centers.
- **Community Outreach:** Chris reported that Wednesday, March 3, 2010 they held the Pediatrician "dinner & discussion" event at the Hazard Grille. Dr. Ann Milanese, a Developmental Pediatrician from CCMC was the key note speaker. They were thrilled with the turnout and all of the initial feedback has been very positive. Out of the seven Pediatric Practices in Enfield, six of them had representation at the table. We conducted a survey at the end of the meeting and five pediatricians agreed to join a task force to look at the issue of developmental screenings. All pediatricians were interested in attending KITE sponsored events, such as this, in the future and everyone also agreed to accept resource information from us via our e-mail distribution list. Amy Witbro reported that our next Faith Leaders Breakfast is scheduled for Monday, March 22nd. Items on the agenda include Bullying, the Census, and a discussion on summer programs and help that are available to families.
- **Community Planning:** Pam Brown reported that the development of the grant application caused them to begin the planning. They are now just waiting for word from the Memorial Fund to begin.

Workgroups:

- **Community Conversation:** Amy M. reported that the Community Conversation will take place on Wednesday, March 24th at the JFK Middle School. The community conversation topic will be *"Busy Families Raising and Educating Young Children"*. Sixteen people are registered so far.
- **Book Buddies:** This committee reported that they will make their last delivery in April. The books are all wrapped and ready to go.

IV. Community Partnerships and Events

- a. **Parent Leadership Association:** Amy Witbro reported that the Parent Leadership Association will be holding a reunion/refresher course for the past graduates of the Parent Leadership Academy. It will be held on Monday, March 29th. It will be facilitated by Francia Prescott.
- b. **PIE:** Amy W. reported that kindergarten registration will be the week of April 12th with the evening registration event taking place on the 12th from 5-7 at the Enfield Square Mall. There will be kindergarten teachers, school secretaries and school nurses available. The Annual Family Science Fair will take place at Fermi High School on Thursday, April 15th from 6-8 pm. The EPS in conjunction with the FRC will hold a six week parenting course called STEP. The class begins on April 1st and is open to the public. Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten will take place in June. This year they will also sponsor an "Enfield Gets Ready for 1st Grade". They will work with ETV to air information over the summer. This will include 1st grade expectations, Frequently asked questions and information sessions on core subject areas. The Parent Leadership Academy started two weeks ago and has 12 people in this year's class.
- c. **Community Assessment:** This committee reported that all the information is gathered they are now beginning to work with a consultant to publish the data.
- d. **Early Education Fair:** This will be held on Saturday, March 27th. It will be held at Asnuntuck Community from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Nineteen programs are registered. KITE is looking for volunteers to work at our table.
- e. **Home Care Provider Workshop:** Amy Morales reported that the FRC and KITE will be sponsoring an outreach to home care providers on Tuesday, March 23rd by providing a workshop on "Marketing and Interviewing Techniques in Child Care". Enfield has 51 home care providers and 4 are registered for this event.

V. Announcements:

- Christie Michaud announced that the MOMs Club next meeting topic is "Preschool". The MOMs club has 22 current members and has 1 member social/month. She is also looking to do a community service project through Holy Trinity Church and was thinking about doing a book collection/repair/re-distribution project.
- Chris announced that they are still looking for people to help out with website development.
- Amy Morales thanked everyone who help to support the FRC Benefit.
- Henry Dutcher announced that Lisa Ellis is the new Director of Children Services. They are looking into doing a "Rhyme Time" at night for those families who cannot attend during the day. Also, the former Children's Librarian, Kristen Frost, had her second baby on Valentine's Day. Her name is Ella Margaret.
- There will be a dental clinic sponsored by the CT Mission of Mercy in Middletown on Saturday. A donor has sponsored transportation for those who are interested. There is room for 16 + 2 wheelchairs. Four have signed up so far. It will depart at 6:00 am sharp from Enfield Pizza and return to Enfield Pizza at 4:30.

VI. Next Steps:

- Christie Michaud will put together some ideas for her book collection program

IX. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.