

## Danbury School Readiness Council

### Minutes

**Date:** September, 16, 2020 **Time:** 3-4:00 p.m. **Location:** ZOOM (Virtual meeting)

**Attendance:** Attendance: Michelle Anderson, Eileen Costello, Claudia Anderson, Michelle James, Anne Mead, Amy Kaplan, Judy Sims, Michelle Coppotelli, Maureen Farrell, Jessica Palencia, Sue Giglio, Nicole Schutz, Yazmin Iglesias, Dr. Sal

**Minutes approved:** by Judy Sims and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michelle James. Minutes posted on the EdAdvance website.

**Announcements:**

**Agenda Item: Consultant Report** – *Will be attached to the minutes.*

**Main Points:** *A review of Programming during COVID19*

**Decisions/Next Steps:** All programs are up and running/many have openings right now. DL for preK SPED students and how it integrates into preschool classrooms has brought some issues that are being worked on together. A review of the grant process and e grant system was provided. New mask requirement for children was talked about. Professional development was discussed/No QE funds at this time.

**Agenda Item: Superintendent / District Update**

**Main Points:** *Highlights of Distance Learning*

Anne and Michelle reported 806 new Kindergarten kids. School started with DL b/c of COVID #'s, Teachers did two weeks of training include SEL. FACE center is open, one family in at a time. Parents have access to training to navigate computers, meals being offered 12-2 for all children in community. It has been a stressful time for families. We talked extensively on DL for PreK Special Education students in school readiness off site programs. Meeting are being held to brainstorm best practices on this and how to navigate distance learning. Numerous issues on centers not having enough staff to handle the demand of DL, families not bringing in technology, lack of communication between DPS and programs, etc. The need for site services is great as families are opting out and children are not as engaged. DPS and providers will be working together to handle this "new normal". Dr. Sal added that he is using the COVID19 numbers to decide when to re-open.

### **Decisions/Next Steps**

**Agenda Item: Community Sharing**

**Main Points:** All Our Kin talked on bringing on a licensing coordinator for FCC providers. They are doing webinars for providers on support them. AOK staff working remotely.

Birth to Three stated referrals are low. Nicole shared B to 3 families dealt with some of the same issues as the DPS with DL. Risk levels are viewed each week for each town and that determines where or not staff can go into the homes. All staff are using PPE and being safe on in person visits.

Families Network of Western CT – Sue reported that home visits were virtual at this point as families are not comfortable with in home yet. Playgroups on hold a bit as well. Maureen Farrell set a handout to the Council on activities and health related information. Also, an update on projects done through the COVID19 shut down for centers were reviewed.

**Decisions/Next Steps:**

Meeting started at 3:00 p.m. and adjourned at 4:00 p.m.