

Coordinator's Report

September 2021

Summer projects completed:

- Contracted for Little libraires to be built and installed at all centers and the community garden at Park Ave. The community garden library will have mostly STEM books and will have seeds available in the Spring. Each program received a starter set of books. **(pictures 1,2)**
- Spent many hours working on financial forms and audit requirements for the OEC.
- Received a new administrative grant award- includes funds for consultants, secretarial support, covid bonus for liaison, data support and training funds.
- Fall workshop line up- have the workshops and presenters but are looking for a new location.
- Bearington Books- so far, we've published two- Bearington Goes to preschool, about on line learning; Bearington around Danbury, showing all different places around Danbury for the children to visit, and the newest is Bearington's not afraid- showing the bear getting a haircut, going for glasses, etc. This led to America's Best giving us vouchers for children for a free eye exam and if eligible, free glasses. The Bearington's not afraid idea came from one of the parents in the on line preschool group. We continued the preschool through July and parents were appreciative. **(picture 3)**
- Distributed supplies to programs that the Council bought including gloves, wipes and more.
- Worked on a parenting outreach program, ordering supplies and putting together bags for parent educators to distribute. **(picture 4)**
- We had a going away party for Dr. Sal in late June. It was a great luncheon and he appreciated all the kind words from the council and the gift. . **(picture 5)**

Summer professional development day- 170 attendees, three learning tracks-

- Beth Bye, Commissioner for OEC, Senator Julie Kushner, and Superintendent Kevin Walston all joined us for the opening of the event.
- Staff from Action ELC were recognized for the work they did during covid distributing PPE supplies to the greater Danbury area early childhood community. Mini Santosh, director at Action received a legislative recognition for all her hard work keeping the program going, organizing the PPE supplies, distribution offering on line learning and more for the families at Action and in the community.
- 0-3 track with an emphasis on language development and social and emotional needs
- a PreK and school age track that included a Social and emotional workshop in the morning and a hands-on STEM workshop in the afternoon.
- We also offered a Spanish track that was geared toward family childcare providers. The workshops included make it take games and activities that promote school readiness, and an overview on positive discipline strategies for FCC.
- We had raffle prizes, and everyone left with a tote bag, books and an item for their classroom. . **(picture 6)**
- Senator Kushner posted about the event on her Facebook page. **(picture 7)**

OEC updates

Masks are still mandatory in all programs. Vaccines have been mandated for the end of September. We have a high vaccination rate- some programs are at 100%. Staff who are not vaccinated are required to get weekly testing.

If booster shots are recommended, I will work with Kara Prunty at the health department to set up clinics for our staff.

OEC has had some difficulty with getting forms out in a timely manner. The summer reporting forms are still not available. However, I worked with the BOE to make sure our programs were paid.

In late August, the Commissioner announced a 25% supplement for programs that are not fully enrolled, that will be available through December. This changes all the forms and the reimbursement calculations.

The Governor also announced that the state would pay the parents share of tuition for the summer. The formal announcement came out July 27th so it caused a lot of extra work for programs. Parents had to be reimbursed for their July tuition payments. The reimbursement rate from the OEC was about 50% of what programs collect, so there is a second round of funding that programs are applying for to make up the difference.

OEC has distributed direct funds to all ECE settings in the state through kickstart and other grants. Programs received stabilization funds from the federal funding CT received for ECE.

We have a consultant working with staff on obtaining their ECTC credential and are looking forward to working with more staff to help them become QSMs.

The OEC is allowing programs to apply for a waiver for decreasing hours if they are having staff shortages. The council needs to approve the requests. I will submit a blanket request for all programs so if any program needs to temporarily adjust their hours they can apply and have Council approval ready for their submission. Programs can request to be open nine hours a day instead of ten or more. They need to poll parents first to make sure the hours work with their families. Children can come a minimum of six hours a day. (Vote needed)

Two programs achieved reaccreditation from NAEYC. We supplied a consultant to help them through the process. Congratulations to LPLC and St. Peter's !