

**Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 12, 2020**  
**12:00pm**  
**Meeting Via Zoom**

***SRC Members Present:***

Dena Booker	SPS Family Resource Facilitator/ McKinney-Vento Coordinator
Terri Drew – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services City of Stamford,
Karen Feder – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services, ABILIS
Helma Gregorich	Nurturing Families Program Network Manager, Family Centers
Elizabeth McKay	Youth Services Librarian, Ferguson Library
Barbara McLaughlin	Manager of Early Childhood and Volunteers, Kids In Crisis

***Grant Recipients/Advisors/Guests:***

Donna Arcuri	School Readiness Liaison, City of Stamford
Mary Basso	Director of Child Day Care, CLC
Kathy Belmont	SPS Instructional Coordinator
Antonia Better-Wirz	Education Consultant, All Our Kin
Kendra Brown	Director of Early Childhood, SPS
Lisa Cody	Assistant Director of Early Childhood, SPS
Lisa Combs	Co-Director, Stamford Museum and Nature Center Preschool
Tamika Cope	Parent Participant
Phyllis DiFrancia	Assistant Director, CLC William Pitt
Liz Gebert	Director, JCC Kinderplace
Marsha Guthrie	Director, Head Start Programs, CLC
Yazmin Iglesias	Director, All Our Kin – Stamford Norwalk
Linda Jones	Director, Gan Yeladim
Anne Johnson	Director, Sara Walker - JCC
Penny Lehman	Director, CLC Program Services
Kate Murphy	Assistant Director, Child First
Barbara McLaughlin	Director of Early Childhood, Kids in Crisis
Brooke Nilson	Director, First United Methodist Nursery School
Tiffani Olenik	Early Childhood Consultant, ECCP
Enrique Pabon	Education Manager, CLC Maple and CLC Early Head Start
Ellen Reardon	Co-Director, Stamford Museum and Nature Center Nursery School
Marie Roc	Disability and Mental Health Manager, CLC
Inge-Lise Titeradge	Early Childhood Consultant, ECCP
Nathalie Tocci	Care to Care Coordinator, Family Centers
Tashi Shuler-Drakes	Project Associate, Cradle to Career
Lumi Trifan	Director, Shiny Little Stars
Dori Walker	SPS Instructional Coordinator
Anna Witkowski	Director of School Readiness, CLC

**I. Welcome**

Terri Drew welcomed all and attendance was taken virtually.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The September 10, 2020 and October 8, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

**III. School Readiness Provider Reports**

- Reports were previously sent electronically to members and attendees for review and attached here as Addendum A, B, C and D.

- October School Readiness Provider reports are attached here as Addendum A, B, C, and D for BOE at Rippowam, CLC William Pitt, CLC Palmers Hill, CLC Westover, CLC Lathon Wider, CLC Franklin Commons and CLC Maple respectively.

#### **IV. COVID-19 Impact on School Readiness – Anna Witkowski**

- Anna provided an update on classroom closures and infection rates within the School Readiness program.

#### **V. COVID-19 Contact Tracing – Nathalie Tocci**

Nathalie provided a PowerPoint with COVID-19 guidance.

- Explanation of the 3 types of testing and explained that all tests are only as accurate as the sample collected by the clinician.
- What to do if you test positive.
- Retesting.
- Guidance on a positive test with no symptoms.
- Definition of close contact.
- Direction on exposure.
- What to do if a teacher tests positive.
- What to do if a child tests positive.
- Advice on handling a situation if a child in public school had exposure and if the sibling in is your childcare center.
- Advice on if a parent of one of the children enrolled in your center has tested positive.
- Nathalie answered questions from the group and the PowerPoint presentation would be shared with attendees.

#### **VI. School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Arcuri**

- September 2020 SRC minutes approved via email on November ---
- October 2020 SR Utilization Report –
  - CLC SR 218 enrolled / 406 when full. CLC received a reimbursement of \$284,026 which includes a 25% COVID adjustment. Typically CLC's reimbursement is \$345486.
  - BOE SR Classroom at Rippowam has 12 children enrolled/ 16 when full. Earned full reimbursement of 9600 that includes a 25% COVID adjustment.
- Donna reported that because many large priority district programs including CLC, are not receiving full Readiness funding due to a lack of enrollment. The formula to supplement programs in the reporting form, works to a disadvantage to large programs. These programs were asked to write to Commissioner Bye and show their loss and the discrepancy. There have been many requests for the OEC to revise this form to help larger programs receive the same supplement as smaller programs.
- Clear adult masks, children's masks and adult cloth masks were received in Stamford from the OEC. A distribution was held on two occasions at the Stamford Government Center on 10/21 and 10/22.

- Nathalie Tocci and Donna Arcuri will be updating the Health and Safety summary previously created and distributed.
- The Quality Enhancement RFP emailed to SRC members and submitted to the OEC on 11.2.2020.
- Monitoring was completed in September and October. Reports will be emailed to SRC members after they are reviewed with each Director.
- The SPS COVID contact tracing webinar was shared with the early childhood community.

**VII. BOE at Rippowam School Readiness Classroom Social Distance and Healthy Learning Video – Brooke Pelli, Kassie Velez Announcements**

- In the interest of time, it was decided to share the video at the December SRC meeting.

**VIII. Adjourn**

**The next SRC meeting  
December 10, 2020  
12:00pm  
Virtual meeting link provided by Donna Arcuri  
DArcuri@StamfordCT.gov**

## Addendum A

Stamford BOE @ Rippowam  
School Readiness Council Report  
October 2020

- **Program Utilization**
  - a. Authorized Capacity: 16 School Day, School Year slots
  - b. Spaces currently occupied 12
  - c. Ages: 4 year-olds
  - d. Students with disabilities: 1
- **Program Attendance:**
  - Attendance has been consistence for the most part. A few children have absent due to colds.
  - **Staffing:**
    - Staffing is in place.
- **Training:**
  - a. Teacher is working on a presentation for other teachers on the importance of phonemic awareness.
  - b. Teacher is working toward her 097 certification in remedial reading.
- **Classroom Activities for October**
  - Theme:** Fall, Pumpkins, Leaves
  - Phonemic Awareness Activities:** Heggerty
  
  - Math:** Counting leaves, sorting apples by color/ shape/ size, counting apples in ten frame with pom poms & tweezers
  
  - Science:** Exploring pumpkins & apples, learning how they grow through nonfiction texts, nature walks and using 5 senses to record change in seasons, Sink or float with fall items
  
  - Sensory:** Children will collect fall items and add them to the sensory table and will explore with magnifying glasses, water play with fall items, kinetic sand exploration
  
  - Gross Motor:** Raking leaves, parachute with leaves
  
  - Social emotional:** Kindness Chain, Role playing kindness with puppets

**Interactive Read Alouds:** Ten Red Apples, Leaf Man, Pumpkin Pumpkin, Brown Bear Brown Bear

**Dramatic Play:** Pumpkin Patch- individual dramatic play bins

**Art:** Making pumpkins out of paper bags, Nature collage, Leaf Man, Apple stamping, buddy painting, self portrait

**Writing:** If I was leaf man, I would go \_\_\_\_\_, Fall words in writing center, Fall colored crayons/ markers, Fall paper, writing names

**Blocks:** Fall pictures, leaves, rakes, pumpkins, farm animals

**Fine Motor:** Finger exercises: putting beads on toothpicks, sorting marbles with tweezers, cutting playdoh with scissors, pulling beads out of playdoh

**Family Connection:** Class Dojo, Google Classroom, Email, Friday Live Sessions & activities sent home

- **Classroom Activities for November:**

**Gross Motor-** Shoe relay race, Turkey Tango, Feather Tossing Game, Hat Sweater, Pants and Shoes (sung to the tune of head, shoulders, knees and toes)

**Art-** Self-portraits, clothing collage with different fabrics, painting with fabrics, painting with socks

**Writing-**What is your favorite type of clothing?  
Writing in sand, playdoh, different materials (markers colored pencils, stamps)

Writing on cloth & old T-shirts

Name journals- tracing lines, circles and letters in their name

writing numbers on whiteboard- stencils

**Literacy-** The Cow That Went Oink, Charlie Needs a Cloak, Thanksgiving is for Giving Thanks, The Night Before Thanksgiving, Froggy Gets Dressed, clapping syllables with clothing, onset- rime activities with different clothing words, Heggerty phonemic awareness curriculum

**Math-** sock match game, sorting clothes by season, matching clothing, button sorting, patterns with fabrics, sorting Shapes/ drawing shapes in shaving cream

**Fine Motor-** Zipping, buttoning, tying laces

**Blocks/ Dramatic Play-** Different fabric on blocks, Community helper toys, multicultural dolls- (T will ask C about the different clothing that different community helpers wear), Flannel board building with clothes

**Sensory/Science:** Exploring fabrics (wool, leather, satin, burlap)

Cotton ball colors (C will dip cotton balls in water color to see the changes in the cotton balls)- in relation to Pete the Cat I love my white shoes

**Fine motor:** finger gym (sorting beads on toothpicks, coin sorting, pulling beads out of playdoh), cutting, zipping coats, shaving cream , Clothing unit playdoh- different fabrics, people, cut outs, buttons, clothing pins, toothpicks for sewing, hands- on clothing toys (zipping, buckling, tying,, lacing), lacing clothes on dolls

## **Addendum B**

### School Readiness Report

Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County

October 2020

### CLC William Pitt/ CLC Lockwood

- **Program Utilization:** Hours of Operation 8-5pm (M-F)  
*5 sessions offered:* 8-3:30pm, 8:30-4pm, 9-4:30pm, 8-5pm, 9:30-5pm

*Total number classrooms open SR:* 17 (William Pitt-13, Lockwood-4)

William Pitt has 5 classrooms closed.

Total children enrolled SR: 187

Lockwood classrooms total: 44 children

William Pitt classrooms total: 143 children

Staggered times for drop off and pick up has allowed for social distancing of families. Provided separate entrances and traffic patterns in the building. Children and teachers are required to wear masks. Teachers provide children mask breaks through-out the day.

- **Staffing:**

Staff patterns have been adjusted to meet the needs of each cohort with limited intermingling or sharing of staff. Each cluster is a cohort and averages 25 children. Staff shifts have remained the same in total hours worked, but times have been adjusted to accommodate the changes in drop off and pick up of children.

- **Curriculum Focus:**

- a. Teachers are preparing **Learning Experience Plans** based on the CTEDS and the individual needs of the children.
- b. Teachers focusing on **Preschool RULER**- Reinforcing Emotional Intelligence in the classroom. Especially during the pandemic, this area has been addressed carefully. New language and routines for children include; mask, social distancing, change in classroom environment, individual art supplies, smaller class size, sanitizer use, etc.
- c. **Family Support:** Due to new protocols which prohibits families access to the classroom for safety precautions, teachers reach out to families to share information about their child's day through:
  1. Newsletters
  2. Weekly phone calls from teachers
  3. Emails
  4. Monthly phone calls from Educ Coordinators
- a. **Distance Learning:** Allows teachers to reach children at home who are not in the classroom and gives teachers a chance to make a connection with families. 47 children are enrolled in Distance Learning. The 47 children are divided into 3 classes. The enrollment consists of many families that would have been our part day children. These families have decided not to send their children into the building for various reasons. Lockwood is not participating in DL at this time.

Distance learning is offered 5 days/week and includes:

- a. Weekly phone calls/emails

- b. Zoom class or Google class (20 minutes approx.)
- c. Distance Learning Grid- emailed home (monthly)
- d. Video Conferences

- **Monthly Meetings:** All virtual
  - a. Education Coordinators
  - b. Instructional Coordinators
  - c. Head Teacher
  - d. Cluster/classroom meeting
  - e. Component
  - f. SRBI
- **Professional Development:** Virtual
  - a. Cheryl Vallejo: Epi-Pen (in person) 10/9
  - b. Resilient Educator- Diverse Learning Styles in Early Childhood 10/23
  - c. EC and IC- Curriculum: Differentiation- 10/13
  - d. EC and IC- Curriculum: Read Alouds and Literacy- 10/9
  - e. CES- Distance Learning- 10/9
  - f. NCPMI: Racism & Equity- 10/9
- **Family Engagement:** Virtual
  - a. Parent Orientation- 10/29 ( Eng/ Spa sessions)
- **Next Month:**
  - a. Bookmobile- limited access
  - b. Professional Development
  - c. Distance Learning
  - d. Parent Advisory Council



## **Addendum C**

**CLC**

**Palmers Hill, Westover, Franklin Commons, Lathon Wider**

**October 2020**

### **Program Enrollment**

- Infant Room- Full
- Toddler Room- Full
- State Funded Preschool Serving 120 children total
- All classrooms are open at all CD sites

### **Staff Opening**

- Palmers Hill Room 5 Pre K Head Teacher position (full time)

### **Family Engagement**

- Google Classrooms for all Child Development Program classes have been set up
- GMeet with teachers/families
- Bi-weekly phone check ins to assess families need for support as well as teachers to gain family input on child's development at home
- Emails to families - Classroom Newsletter, Family Training Opportunities
- Sparkler Program App introduced to all new Infant/Toddler families
- Columbia- Family Nurturing Intervention Program
- New Family Orientation, 10/14

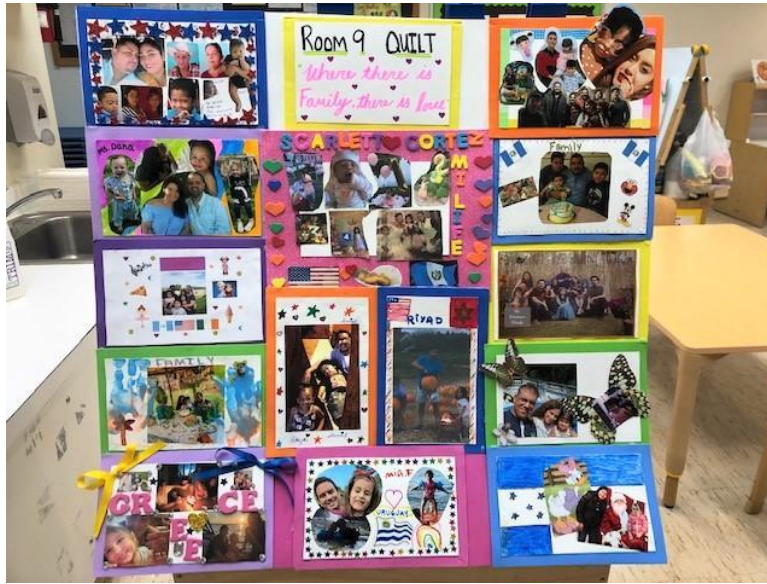
### **Virtual Meetings/Trainings**

- CLC Senior Staff Meetings (Mondays)
- Alliance Meetings (Monday-Wednesday-Friday)
- Child Development Education Team Meeting (Weekly)
- G Suite Tech Trainings (Monthly)
- SR Council Director Call, 10/7
- SR Council Meeting, 10/8
- New Family Orientation, Spanish, 2pm and English, 6pm, 10/14
- SR/CD Nutrition, health, FS and Ed Meeting, 10/15
- SC2C CAN Meeting, FACE Workgroup, 9/17
- CLC FACE Committee Meeting, 10/16
- CLC Board of Directors Meeting, 10/20
- Child Development, Nutrition, Health, Family Service and Education Components Meeting, 10/29
- CLC Distance Learning Committee, 10/30

### **Classroom Learning Experiences**

- Teachers working with children and families, using stories, visual reminders time to practice and adjust to wearing masks. Teachers are educating children on how to wear their mask, when to remove it, where to store it and other steps to keep their mask clean and sanitary.
- Moving our indoor classrooms, learning experiences to the outdoors as much as possible although it is becoming increasingly difficult due to the change in weather..
- Presently classrooms are dedicating learning experiences around family life and diversity.. The classes are creating 'Family Quilts' by having each family decorate a 'square' representative of the family. Children returned to school with family squares that represented different cultures,

family units, favorite foods, sports, pets, etc. Once the squares were brought back to school, the classroom family quilts were constructed and put on display for all to enjoy.



- very month a different author is focused on with October's being Mo Willems. This CD classroom used it's favorite title, The Pigeon Loves Things That Go to extend learning to include a unit on transportation. The children took a vote on their favorite type of transportation. Parents got involved by sending in materials to make a train, a train station, and tickets.



## Addendum D

### School Readiness Report

Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.

Maple Avenue SR/HS Classrooms 2, 3, 7, 11

October 2020

- Program Utilization
  - b. Authorized Capacity: – 240– Full Day; 20- Extended Day= 60
  - c. Enrolled: 57 (just SR rooms)
  - d. Ages (on site): 3 year olds- 27; 4 year olds-30; 5 year olds-0
  - e. Children with disabilities: - IEP; – 6
  - f. Average Daily Attendance: 95%
  - g. Number of children attending on site- 54
  - h. Number of children enrolled in distant learning- 3
- Program Attendance:
  - a. 71% of slot Utilization – October

CLC Maple Avenue

- Staffing:
  - Open Positions- Room 10 Teacher Aide, Room 10 Assistant Teacher
- Activities/Enrichment/Specials:

Teachers prepared lesson plans based on the CTEDLS and focused on the following units of study: All about me, Family and Friends, Fairy Tales & Nursery Rhymes

• Monthly Meetings:

<b>Curriculum Collaboration Meetings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review/Plan upcoming units of study</li><li>• Completion of HS 45 day screening mandate</li><li>• Begin transition of utilizing Creative Curriculum components</li></ul>	<b>Staff Development:</b>  <b>Professional Development was held on October 13<sup>th</sup> and covered the following topics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CPR/First Aid</li><li>- Diversity</li><li>- Supporting Remote/Distant Learning</li></ul>	<u>Community Involvement / Enrichment Program:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- October Policy Council meeting (Virtual)</li><li>- Begin Shine On, Families; home activities.</li></ul>
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- Next Month
  - a. Policy Council
  - b. SHINE PDM Check in
  - c. SR Director's Meeting
  - d. Fall Checkpoint Assessment Due
  - e. Parent Teacher Conferences



