

**Stamford School Readiness Council**  
**Thursday, February 10, 2022**  
**12:00pm**

***SRC Members Present:***

Nina Clark	Director, CP Kids Preschool
Emendya Diaz	Director of Workforce Development, Building One Community
Terri Drew – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services City of Stamford
Karen Feder – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services, ABILIS
Janeene Freeman	Mayor’s Designee
Garth Gordon	Parent Participant
Emmanuella Lauture	Owner Operator, Ma Maison
Liz McKay	Children’s Librarian, Ferguson Library
Lauren Secko-Pagan	Director, Education Station at the Italian Center

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

Donna Arcuri	School Readiness Liaison, City of Stamford
Linda Barge	CDC Assistant Director, CLC
Mary Basso	CDC Director, CLC
Antonia Better-Wirz	Education Manager, AOK
Kendra Brown	Director of Early Childhood, SPS
Lisa Cody	Assistant Direct of Early Childhood, SPS
Tamika Cope	Parent Participant, Parent Liaison C2C
Phyllis DiFrancia	School Readiness Director, CLC
Beth Genovese	SR Education Manager, CLC
Garth Gordon	Parent Participant
Marsha Guthrie	Director, CLC Maple Ave. and CLC Early Head Start
Yazmin Iglesias	Director - Stamford, Norwalk & Danbury, All Our Kin
Alison Kallman	Community Education and Services Coordinator, Kids in Crisis
Penny Lehman	Director Program Services, CLC
Alex Morris	Education Coordinator, CLC
Kate Lynd Murphy	Assistant Director, Child First
Brooke Nilsen	Director, First United Methodist Preschool
Enrique Pabon	Education Manager, CLC Maple and CLC Early Head Start
Yazmin Polonia	Education Coordinator, CLC
Tashi Shuler-Drakes	Community Engagement Manager, Cradle to Career
Nathalie Tocci	Care to Care Coordinator, Family Centers
Ashley Vasquez	Parent Participant
Danielle Walker	Community Coordinator, Cradle to Career
Anna Witkowski	Chief Education Officer, CLC

**I. Welcome/Quorum**

Karen Feder welcomed all. A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm. School Readiness Council minutes for the December, 2021 and January, 2022 were unanimously approved.

**II. School Readiness Provider Reports February, 2022 – School Readiness Program Directors**

Provider reports are attached as Addendums A, B, C and D and were sent to members and attendees prior to the meeting. No questions were asked.

**III. School Readiness Liaison Update – Donna Arcuri**

- January School Readiness Utilization (CLC) FD-339/425, ED 57/60—PD 28/28. CLC received full reimbursement with the 25% supplement from the OEC. (BOE) SD 16/16— Full reimbursement. Still underutilized. This is a state-wide problem mostly in programs that serve economically disadvantaged families.
- The City of Stamford previously offered child care providers two opportunities to fill gallon containers with hand sanitizer.
- The City of Stamford will now make available surgical masks. Centers will be able to pick up 1000. Donna provided information to all childcare centers.
- Expenditure Report due date has been extended to Feb 28.
- FY22 2nd Q monitoring is completed.
- OEC / 211 Fingerprinting events have been moved to the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Training room at the Government Center.
- Community RFP is due Sunday, May 8 at 11:59. Two weeks earlier than usual
- The proposed due date for applications April 1 by 3pm. These will be time stamped upon receipt.
- Applications will be distributed to reviewers on April 4 and 5. The reviewer meeting will be held virtually and in person the week of the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The SRC needs 5 volunteer application reviewers as well as volunteers to visit the sites of any new applicants. A rubric will be provided. Karen, Joe, Liz, Maura?
- I would like to propose a special SRC meeting on Thursday, April 21 to vote on SR and QE allocations.
- School Readiness and CDC reimbursement rates have not increased in many years.
- Donna provided statistics throughout the state of CT.
  - Across the state, childcare staff are leaving for better paying jobs in other fields.
  - As of March 7, Indeed showed active listings for 750 preschool teachers, 315 Assistant teachers and 260 infant toddler teachers in CT.
  - Across the state providers, report very few inquiries for employment.
  - Potential candidates with no experience are demanding higher wages than veteran staff.
  - Thousands of children are not able to attend subsidized ECE programs in school readiness and CDC programs due to lack of staff to open classrooms.
  - These problems are widespread across the industry.
- The early childhood Alliance took a poll of providers shows that 62% of early childhood programs are now operating at a loss.
- Donna reminded attendees of the local poll taken from Stamford providers. Results were 60% of the programs polled had staff shortages that affected classroom closures, 60% of Stamford's programs have chosen not to enroll at full capacity because of the fear of staffing shortages.
- Karen Feder added that Birth to 3 staff have not received an increase in funding and are also unable to hire qualified staff.

#### **IV. Early Childhood Center Update – Kendra Brown, SPS**

- Programs that are not able to participate can share tokens and flyers.

#### **V. March 15 Day of Action for Early Childhood Providers– Yazmine Iglesias, AOK**

- Tashi was unable to provide an update.

**VI. Early Childhood Fair Update – Danielle Walker, Cradle to Career  
Cradle to Career Update – Tashi Shuler Drakes, Cradle to Career**

**VII. Announcements**

- Liz McKay reminded the group that the Cradle to Career annual convening would be held on March 11.

**VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 pm.

## **Addendum A**



### **Stamford BOE @ Rippowam School Readiness Council Report**

**February 2022**

#### **Themes:**

- Healthy Habits, Friendship, Black History Month

#### **Dramatic Play:**

- Doctor's Office

#### **Math:**

- Sorting healthy foods, measuring food containers with cubes/ teddy bears, measuring height/weight in doctor's office, heart counting, sorting healthy vs. not healthy foods

#### **Art:**

- painting with toothbrushes, healthy food collages, heart stamping, tissue paper hearts, painting with celery and carrots, February self-portrait

#### **Writing:**

- Healthy food words, Valentine's Day letters, "I love \_\_\_\_\_", healthy grocery list

#### **Science:**

- tasting different healthy foods and graphing favorite, candy heart STEM activity

#### **Sensory table:**

- rice with Valentine's Day objects and letters on hearts, measuring cups

#### **Literacy:**

- dentist vocabulary syllable sort, rhyming doctor office words, black history month study- Jackie Robinson, Heggerty

#### **Library:**

- Books about healthy habits/ friendship/ Black History Month

**Social emotional:**

- Compliment circle, kindness chain

**Fine motor:**

- dental playdoh center, cutting/ snipping practice

**Homeschool Connection:**

- Culture Week

**Blocks:**

- build with healthy foods, healthy food boxes, build a grocery store

**March 2022****Theme:** Wheels

**Essential Questions:** Unit of Study Questions- How do things move? What do you notice about wheels? How are some of the wheels the same? How are they different from one another? How have you seen wheels being used? Who might use some of these wheels? How do wheels help people? What is your favorite kind of wheel? Why?

**Vocabulary words:** axle, rim, brakes, crank, revolve, roll, rotate, inflate, tire, radius, cylinder, spokes, deflate

**Blocks:** Garage-Explore a variety of vehicles with wheels. Build ramps using wooden blocks. Test the speed of vehicles.

**Dramatic play:** Repair shop- C will repair broken objects that have wheels with tools.

**Math:** counting wheels on objects, compare the shape of wheels on objects, measure wheels, and sort wheels by type

**Art:** marble painting, make "VEHICLES" with creative junk: toilet paper roll, bottle top, food boxes, painting with cars and making tire prints, learn about color wheel and use it to select colors for painting

**Writing:** Write and dictate drawings & investigations about wheels, visuals of wheels to refer to when writing

**Sensory Bin:** Little Blue Truck retell sensory bin (sand, story prop materials)

**Science:** Ramp experiment: which ramp helps the car go faster? (higher ramp/shorter ramp) How do we need to place the ramp for the cars to go? Etc.

**Literacy:** fiction and nonfiction books about wheels

**Homeschool Connection:** Family 3-D wheels project, Culture week study, Google Classroom, ClassDojo, Parent Teacher Conferences

**Social Studies:** Every Friday virtual field trip: garage, car wash, amusement park, car show

**Wheel Hunt:** go for a walk around the school to look for places where we see wheels

## **Addendum B**

School Readiness Report  
Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County  
February 2022

### CLC William Pitt/ CLC Lockwood

- **Program Utilization:** Hours of Operation 7:30am-5:30pm (M-F)  
William Pitt has 1 classroom closed.

**Total** children enrolled SR: 334 children

**Lockwood** classrooms total: 58 children

**William Pitt** classrooms total: 276 children

Classrooms PARTIALLY CLOSED due to a positive case of Covid-19. ALL classrooms offer Distance Learning using Google classroom:

*\* Lockwood 15 & 17 on Feb 15,16,17.*

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. Family members are also required to wear a mask for drop off and pick up. Families do not enter our buildings.

- **Staffing:**

Open positions include: (1) Head Teacher, (2) Teacher (3) Assistant Teachers, (5) Teacher Aide Full time, (3) Teacher Aide Part time. All classrooms satisfy QSM requirements.

- **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.
- c. **Monitoring of Classrooms:** Environments -Educ Coordinators

d. **Family Support/Engagement:** Due to Covid 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- monthly
2. Emails - check in, including photos
3. Monthly Family Engagement Grid-emailed to families

- **Collaborations/Donations/Volunteers**

- a. Columbia: Nurture Science Intervention Program
- b. Vita Co-Educators 3.0 -Family Centers
- c. SPS
- d. Bruce Museum
- e. Child Guidance
- f. Stamford/Westhill Ice Hockey Team- "Teddies for Teddy"

- **Specials/Family Engagement:**

- a. Parent Advisory Council
- b. Lunch & Learn: Time Life 2/15
- c. Bookmobile
- d. Home/School Connections: Celebrating Black History Month, Post Office, Friendship and Kindness



- **Monthly Meetings:**

- Education Coordinators
- Instructional Coordinators
- Head Teacher
- Cluster/classroom meeting
- Component
- SRBI
- Apples/Itinerant services
- RULER Implementation Team

- **Professional Development:**

- CPR/First Aid- American Red Cross 2/16
- Positive Discipline 2/17
- NAEYC Criteria 2/3



- d. Team Building 2/23
- e. Literacy How 2/24- (Admin)
- f. Yale RULER 2/16-(Admin)

## **Addendum C**

**CLC  
Palmers Hill, Westover, Franklin Commons, Lathon Wider  
February 2022**

### **Program Enrollment**

- State Funded Preschool                      Serving 180

### **Staff Opening**

Child Development Program teacher positions openings:

- Teacher Aide (CD Floater)
- Teacher Aide (PH Room 8)
- Assistant Teacher (Franklin Commons Room 1)
- Assistant Teacher (Lathon Wider Room A)
- Head Teacher (Lathon Wider Room C)

### **Family Engagement**

- Google Classroom- All Child Development Program classes use Google Classroom to communicate with their families. Teachers share pictures, classroom activities, classroom newsletters, and upcoming events. A Family Learning Plan is also shared with suggestions of activities to help extend classroom learning to the home environment.
- G Meets and phone check-ins with teachers/staff/families as necessary, particularly during room closure due to COVID
- Emails to families that share, Health updates (vaccines), Family Training Opportunities, Community Events, CLC Newsletters, etc.
- Sparkler Program App introduced to all new Infant/Toddler families
- Columbia- Family Nurturing Intervention Program (FNI)
- Co Educators Parent Program
- Lunch and Learn for Families (NY Life- Financial Planning and CoEducator Program Overview), 2/15 at 12pm
- Parent Advisory Council (Black History Month), 2/16, 5pm
- Virtual Parent -Teacher Conferences for remaining families.

### **Virtual Meetings/Trainings**

- CLC Senior Staff Meetings (Mondays)
- Alliance Meetings (Monday, Wednesday weekly)
- Child Development Education Team Meeting (Mondays)
- CLC Combined Component Meeting; SR and CD Health, Nutrition, Family Service and Education Department, 2/3
- Literacy How Training for CLC education program administrators, 2/3 and 2/24
- CD Head Teacher's Meeting, 2/9
- SR Council Meeting, 2/10
- CLC Reopening Committee Meeting, 2/10
- CLC/Columbia FNI Program Meeting
- RULER Child Development Program Implementation Team Meeting, 2/15
- RULER Training for CLC Administrators, 2/16
- Lunch and Learn ( NY Life Financial Planning and Co Educators Parent Program Overview), 2/15
- SC2C Pre K Screenings and Assessments Workgroup (PKTS 2022 Review), 2/17
- CLC/Co-Educators Program Meeting, 2/8 and 2/22
- Child Development Program Component Meeting Health, Nutrition, Family Service and Education Department, 2/17
- CLC Program Directors Meeting, 2/23
- Standards, Assessments and Curriculum offered through the OEC, monthly, February through June, with first raining session on 2/.23

### **Volunteers/ Collaboration**

- In celebration of CLC's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary our '120 Readers' program was launched this month. We look forward to having numerous community partners and CLC staff members read virtually to our children throughout the year
- 'Teddy Bears for Teddy' donated to our children by the Westhill and Stamford High School boy's Hockey Teams in memory of Teddy Balkind

### **Classroom Learning Experiences**

This month's areas of focus are;

- Writing Letters, Post Office, Mail Delivery
- Kindness
- Black History Month

Some of the children's literature used in January's learning experience plans:

- *Letter To Amy*- Ezra Keats
- *Herman's Letter*- Tom Percival
- *The Post Office Book*- Gail Gibbons
- *Love Waves*- Rosemary Wells
- *Mail Truck's Busy*-Traci Todd Peyton
- *My Friend and I*- Lisa Jahn Clough
- *Rainbow Fish*-` Marcus Pfister
- *Hair Love* – Matthew A. Cherry

Examples of learning experiences extended from the books read:

- The children learned songs and rhymes about love, kindness, postal workers, mail and community helpers
- Teacher lead discussions consisting of open ended questions on the above focus areas
- Children worked in the art area making a classroom friendship collage and shiny one of a kind individual rainbow fish.
- Through development of their fine motor skills the children created the letters in their names and the names of others. Some are forming letters while others are strengthening their skills by getting used to the movement and feel of holding a writing tool
- While learning about friendship and feelings the class discussed how music can make us feel. At the science table instruments of differing sizes and shapes were displayed for children to explore. The children experimented with the sounds that the instruments make and how each made them feel
- After discussing certain jobs and how these jobs help our community the children enjoyed dressing as various community helpers and playing the part
- At the math center, children were given the opportunity to make a sensory bag using gel and pom poms, counting the number of pomp oms they put in the bag
- The children were introduced to Alma Woodsey, the first Black woman to have a show at the Whitney Museum of American Art and to have work acquired by the White House. After observing and discussing the different pieces she painted the children, inspired by her works, painted their own pictures.

### **Home/School Connection Activities:**

- The children and their teachers danced together at school and talked about how dancing made them feel. After checking in on the mood meter they noticed most of the class was in the yellow and feeling happy and energetic. Families were asked to dance at home with their family and talk about how they feel when dancing together. The teacher also asked the families to upload a video on google classroom of the family dancing that the teacher would share with their friends at school
- Supplies were sent home so each family could make a sensory bottle with their child. Families posted pictures on google classroom of the sensory bottles the children made and were later shared at school with their friends.
- A short video about black female artist, Alma Woodsey's life and artwork was shared with the families on google classroom. Using her work as inspiration, the families were asked to paint something together, take a picture of it, and share it on google classroom for all to enjoy.

### **Addendum D**

School Readiness Report  
Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.  
Maple Avenue SR/HS Classrooms 2, 3, 7, 11

### February 2022

- Program Utilization
  - a. Authorized Capacity: – 240– Full Day; 20- Extended Day= 60
  - b. Enrolled: 75 (just SR rooms)
  - c. Ages (on site): 3 year olds-20; 4 year olds-52; 5 year olds-5
  - d. Children with disabilities: - IEP; – 6
  - e. Average Daily Attendance: 88%
  - f. Number of children attending on site- 75
  - g. Number of children enrolled in distant learning- N/A
- Program Attendance:
  - a. 94% of slot Utilization –February

## CLC Maple Avenue

- Staffing:  
Open Positions- Room 2 Teacher Aide

- Activities/Enrichment/Specials: Teachers are finishing the Clothes unit of study, and will be starting the unit of study on Buildings in March.

- Monthly Meetings:

<b>Curriculum Collaboration Meetings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussed vocabulary scaling to support DLL children</li></ul>	<b>Staff Development:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training from SPS IC on Documentation &amp; Assessment 2/3/22</li></ul>	<u>Community Involvement / Enrichment Program:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Filling in the blanks dry goods food distribution</li></ul>
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- Next Month
  - a. Policy Council March Meeting,
  - b. School Readiness Council March Meeting
  - c. March 11<sup>th</sup> Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences

### Addendum E

#### OVERVIEW

##### **Purpose:**

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) shall establish a program, within available appropriations, to provide on a competitive basis supplemental quality enhancement grants to providers of child day care services or providers of school readiness programs pursuant to Connecticut General Statute (C.G.S.) Section 10-16p and Section 10-16u to enhance the quality of early childhood education programs. Child day care providers and school readiness programs in priority school districts and competitive school readiness municipalities may apply for a quality enhancement grant. These applicants must use their local School Readiness Council to review and recommend projects for funding.

The purpose of the QEGP is to provide funding for early care and education programs to address quality standards and/or expand comprehensive services for children and families. C.G.S. Section 17b-749c identifies the following as appropriate use of grant funds:

1. Help providers who are not accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children to obtain such accreditation;
2. Help directors and administrators to obtain training;
3. **Provide comprehensive services, such as enhanced access to health care, a health consultant,** a mental health consultant, nutrition, family support services, parent education, literacy and parental involvement, and community and home outreach programs; and provide information concerning access when needed to a speech and language therapist;
4. Purchase educational equipment;
5. Provide scholarships for training to obtain a credential in early childhood education or child development;
6. Provide training for persons who are mentor teachers, as defined in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide a family service coordinator or a family service worker as such positions are defined in such federal regulations;
7. Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act; train child care providers on injury and illness prevention; and achieve compliance with national safety standards;
8. Create a supportive network with family day care homes and other providers of care for children;
9. **Provide for educational consultation and staff development;**
10. Provide for program quality assurance personnel;
11. Provide technical assistance services to enable providers to develop child care facilities pursuant to C.G.S. Sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h and 17b-749i;
12. Establish a single point of entry system; and
13. **Provide services that enhance the quality of programs to maximize the health, safety and learning of children** from birth to three years of age, inclusive, including, but not limited to, those children served by informal child care arrangements. Such grants may be used for the improvement of staff to child ratios and interaction, initiatives to promote staff retention, pre-literacy development, parent involvement, curriculum content and lesson plans.