Danbury School Readiness Council
Minutes

Date: January, 8, 2020  Time: 3-4:30 p.m.  Location: 4 Mountainview Terrace, Suite 201, Danbury 06810

Attendance: Tara Carvalho, Elizabeth Quinonez, Mark Meyer, Nicole Schutz, Robin Eckstein, Claudia Anderson, Judy Sims, Yazmin Iglesias, Alicia Shiland, Dr. Sal, Michelle Anderson, and Eileen Costello. Minutes approved: by Tara Carvalho and 2nd by Claudia Anderson/Mark Meyer. Minutes are posted on EdAdvance website, DPS website, and City Hall. Follow-up on November minutes were discussed. Announcements: Welcome to new members! Nicole Taxitaridis is new Early Learning Director from CIFI.

Agenda Item: Consultant Report – Will be attached to the minutes.
Main Points: Discussion on professional development grant we received from the help of Senator Kushner. A thank you letter was being sent around. Assessment data scan is underway, more details in March on child progress in SR sites. All 4 Head Start classrooms officially moved to their new location at the end of December. All SR components are fully operational and in good standing. Talked about upcoming events, etc. Legislative initiatives were discussed.

Decisions/Next Steps: Calendar of professional development is being finalized.

Agenda Item: Community Sharing
Main Points: Liz Q. from UW talked about Cora’s Kids (28 FCC providers and 6 are full). United Way is providing PD on Business supports for these FCC Providers. In addition, offering 1,000 for supplies and paying for 1 year of liability insurance. Maureen F. from the YMCA shared information about the BMI project. In addition, information was shared on the cooperative grant with the Coalition for Healthy Kids to offer fruits and vegetables to 5 programs. Nicole S. shared information about the Birth to Three system.

Tara C. from the Danbury Public Library told us weekends were picking up at the library with robust activities for children and families. Tara would like to get out to centers to share information on the library, attending reading days and parent nights. Library is offering free workshops for all ages including technology classes for adults and STEM classes for children. Nicole from Birth to Three announced they received the Birth to Three funding as a result of the recent Request for Proposal from OEC. EdAdvance received the grant and was number one in the state for scoring. There is a part-time LCSW position open in the Danbury area for Birth to Three. Alicia from Wellmore noted they moved locations to Kenosia Ave. ECCP has openings for classroom support. They have PAT funding. They do have a waiting list for individual child work. Robin from Positive Discipline announced a training for educators on May 17 and 18th from 9-5, details to come. They also have a Parent Education class for School Readiness parents taking place. It is bilingual.

Michelle from EdAdvance mentioned the Danbury office will be closing and new space is being explored. We anticipate a move in February. We will have 2 weeks noticed. Eileen is securing space for all the School Readiness professional development.

Decisions/Next Steps: Maureen Farrell will be conducting focus groups on health and dental. More dental services through CIFI is happening. Jennifer Pane suggested we explore a resource for children on sleep issues 3-10.

Agenda Item: Superintendent Update
Main Points: Space for students
Decisions/Next Steps: The need for space continues to be a challenge especially on the westside. Dr, Sal discussed some possible solutions to meet the growth happening in high school grades and PreK Special Education.

Dr. Sal visited Head Start’s new space during the Open House they hosted and was very impressed with the site. The School Readiness children were moved in and receiving all the services of the grant. Discussed occurred on the Nellie Mae grant that Danbury Public School’s has that is to showcase the portrait of a graduate.

Meeting started at 3:10 p.m. and adjourned at 4:45 p.m.