November 2019

Coordinator’s report

**WCSU update** - The program closed on September 30th. All families wanting a SR space were relocated to other programs. The programs that saw the increase in numbers were: Little People Learning Center, Action ELC, DPS Cottage Street. The other children were moved into empty spaces at programs that had openings. We will be sending back funds to the OEC since we have reallocated all the funding we could to our current programs in good standing.

**Program Visits for the Fall** are completed. All programs did very well. There was some missing paperwork at a few sites that will be rechecked. There were a few discrepancies on the monthly reports that have been caught. We had an additional training and discussion at the provider meeting about the forms and information submitted. For instance, a child who attended two locations had two different incomes, ethnicity and family size. W talked about collecting accurate information and consistency among the programs. This is a big problem. We would be better served with a single point of entry for all SR funding to improve accuracy.

Next Visit **Winter Visit**

- Assessments (DOTS)- check on new system to ensure accuracy
- Referrals
- Serving Children with Disabilities
- Revisit attendance and missing paperwork

**New assessment form and training** We completed two training sessions on the new local DOTS assessment form. One in the afternoon and one in the evening. The new system is easy to use and we chose standards that aligned to Head Start Standards, ELDS, Montessori, to make it easier on staff to collect the data.

**QE update** - The Council has sponsored 4 workshops so far this Fall- A sign language class, which has been a big hit and is part of our strategy to work with dual language learners. We also completed another author study and staff received a book and games to promote literacy in the classroom. The next two workshops continued our support for classroom teachers in following the csfels/pyramid strategies. At every workshop, staff leave with a book for their classroom library. There are 3 more workshops being offered this Fall. The January line up will be out in mid- December. We have a directors appreciation day scheduled at Barnes and Noble and a teachers appreciation day scheduled at EdAdvance in December with Usborne books.

Barnes and Noble is sponsoring the school readiness programs for their annual book drive so please support our programs if you are out shopping.
Seeking clarification on Care 4 Kids funds and oversight: at a recent OEC meeting, it was stated that SR liaisons do not have to review care 4 kids payments. The liaisons are seeking clarification on the issue since we must oversee the reporting of funds on the monthly report and as part of the audit for the city. OEC is looking to give us some guidelines on the topic. Care 4 Kids is federal funding.

WIDA training: Today there was a training in Danbury. I have already participated in the state meeting on WIDA and its resources for dual language learners. This is a new system the state is looking to adopt.

I will be away at the NAEYC conference next week. I am looking for ideas from national speakers on dual language strategies, STEM and innovative literacy strategies.

As part of a statewide team, we have been requested to attend the national Pyramid/CSFELS conference in April. There will be two going from Danbury, myself and Lisa Swain. Lisa is the trainer and coach for our programs. I am working on grant funding to support on site coaching for our sites regarding social and emotional issues.

Legislative updates: clarification has been requested on the 2.8 licensing policy versus legislation that states School Readiness serves 3 and 4 year old children up to kindergarten enrollment. Children eligible for kindergarten must go if they have completed two years of funding and if they have only attended one year, but are K eligible, they must get a letter from the district saying they are not ready for kindergarten if they choose to remain in a SR program. Most districts will not sign the waiver.

The 2.8 child also needs a waiver signed by the parent explaining the child is being considered a preschool aged child and therefore will be under all licensing and ratio requirements of a preschooler, not a 2 year old.

2.8 issue:

Child enters in November 2019 at 2.8

November 2020- 3.8

November 2021-4.8

August 2022- 5. 6- leaves for Kindergarten

Has crossed 4 years of funding. No one has looked at the consequences of the policy and its impact on funding. The OEC is trying to get clarification.

Minutes also will be posted on EdAdvance website – see Michelle’s email date 11/13/19.

Formal letters from Mayor and Superintendent for Council members distributed.