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Vernon School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
April 4, 2019
BOE/Central Office, 9:30-11:00 am
APPROVED Minutes

VSRC Mission: To ensure that every child in Vernon will start school ready to learn

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
Members Present: Maryellen Sciallo, Jen Snyder, Pat Szafir, Brianna Johnson, Kaitlin Carafa, Melissa Ross, Peggy Stickel, Tina Gladden, Michelle Hill, Betsy Crayton, Joan O'Donnell
- II. **Approval of 3/7/19 draft meeting minutes :**
A motion to approve the 3/7/19 draft minutes was made and seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed.
- III. **Community Presentations:**
 - A. **Child First:** Kaitlin Carafa and Mary Ellen Sciallo, The Village for Families and Children
Mary Ellen Sciallo from the Village for Families and Children presented information about the Child First Program. Child First is an evidence- based, intensive, early childhood model that works with the most vulnerable young children and their families, which promotes healing from the devastating effects of stress and trauma. The two generation approach builds strong nurturing, caregiver –child relationships, promotes adult capacity, and connects families with needed services. This homebased intervention increase emotional health and learning success, and prevents child abuse and neglect. Mary Ellen shared the Village is applying for funding through the Ct. Office of Early Childhood. If granted the Village would work collaboratively with VSRC and partners to ensure the most efficient and effective coordination of services.
- IV. **School Readiness Grant (SR) and Preschool Development Grant (PDG) updates**
 - A. **Enrollment updates**
YMCA funded for SR: 18 full day, full year slots, Tina Gladden reported the YMCA SR lots were fully enrolled.
VPS: funded for SR: 27 part day, part year slots and 4 school day, school year slots
PDG: 27 improved slots and 27 expanded slots
Melissa Ross reported that Vernon Public Schools SR and PDG funded slots are fully enrolled.
 - B. **Monitoring 2018-19**
SR program monitoring began at the beginning of April for the YMCA and the Vernon public School's SR programs. A summary of monitoring results will be shared with the Vernon School Readiness Council by Jill Mahoney, program monitor, once completed.
 - C. **SR 2019-20 RFP update- funding recommendations**

Two local applications were submitted to the Vernon School Readiness Council for 2019-20 School readiness funding. The following providers and requests were made:

- Vernon Public Schools Preschool Collaborative requested 32 part day, part year school readiness slots at the Center Rd. School site.
- The Indian Valley YMCA Rockville Child Development Center located on 23 Elm St. in Vernon requested 18 full day, full year slots.

The Review committee reviewed each application using the CT. OEC rubric.

A member of the review committee spoke on behalf of the committee to share that the applications were thoroughly reviewed using the CT OEC rubric and that it was the consensus of the review committee to make the recommendation to grant the requested number of slots for each participant.

A motion to approve the recommendations for sr funding made by the review committee was made, and seconded. Six out of nine present voted yes, and three who were not eligible to vote abstained. The motion passed.

- D. Enhancement funds: It was agreed by the members of the VSRC to request SR 2019-20 SR enhancement funds for the purchase of sensory paths for SR preschool classrooms.

V. Partner updates:

Pat Szafir and Brianna Johnson from The Strong Foundation Preschool provided information to the VSRC about their program. The Strong Foundation provides Center based Applied Behavior Analysis program and serve children diagnosed with autism at their location in Vernon on West Rd.

More information about their services can be found on their website:

<https://www.strongfoundationsct.com/>

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle Hill
