

**EARLY LEARNING STRATEGY GROUP
MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 13TH, 2016
TIME: 1:00-3:00
HOST: HRA NEW BRITAIN**

Members

Co-chairs: Nancy Sarra, Talhaht Mannan

Members:

Tracey Madden-Hennessey, Amy Litke, Kim Jackson, Colleen Krieger, Liz Donnellan, Heidi Levitz, Adrienne Ricciardi, Maegan Adams, Shermane Fletcher, Kris Keidel, Nancy Sarra, Justin Dorsey, Talhaht Mannan, Lauren Pederson, Michelle Eathorne, Kyle Pilon, Kate Lincoln, Cindy Guerreri, Liz Gaffney, Geethika Fernando, Mary Lombardi, Ryan Morgan, Patrice Nelson, Robin Sparks, Dorthy Zyla, Brendan Schiffer, Rachel Sanborn, Julie Arci la, David Tompkins, Linda Heiten

Desired outcomes:

1. Review Bylaws and structure for School Readiness
2. Generate ideas and conversation about strategic direction for the next year
3. Identify accomplishments and recommendations for Leadership Group Retreat

Time	Discussion	Facilitated by	Questions Raised	Actions to take/Comments	Notes
1:00-1:05	Welcome & Overview Introduction of Guests & New Members (Linda, Kate, Rachel, Julie, David)	Sarra		Nancy gave the background of Coalition and the merge of the ELSG to SRC In attendance: Kris, Liz, Kim, David, Michele, Kyle, Amy, Julie, Heidi, Linda, Talhaht, Maegan, Nancy, Liz G, Colleen, Sarah, Kate, Rachel, Julie, Robin, New Member: Kate Clark ECCP	
1:05-1:15	School Readiness Council: Policy Binders Updates Members	Maegan		Binders were handed out to members Updates: we were awarded 15 new sots 5 to each of the ELP, YWCA, and B&GC	
1:15-	Summer Learning Loss	Sarra		6th year of working on	

1:20				<p>program. <i>Beginning to post positions for Summer Learning. Meeting bi-weekly currently and planning for the upcoming summer. There is a strict timeline being followed to ensure that process are taken care of and nothing falls through the cracks.</i></p>	
1:20-1:25	<p>Chronic Absenteeism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates 	Sarra		<p><i>Nancy and Joe Vaverchak went to a grade level reading summit to speak on the topic of Chronic Absenteeism. Maegan, Robin, and Mallory Deprey joined them from our district. The district is moving from "Average Daily Attendance" to looking at chronic absenteeism in a cumulative manner. YWCA, BOE, HRA, were all included in the project.</i></p> <p><i>HRA (Liz) stated that they worked hard last year on improving absenteeism and this year everything is going so well she claims that it relates directly to transportation and weather. The BOE changed the walking distance from 1.5 miles to 1 mile for Kindergarteners which has helped attendance as wel.</i></p> <p><i>Wynter follows up with the BOE families in PreK. Many of families state that they don't want to take their children outside when it's cold because of Asthma and breathing conditions.</i></p>	<p><i>Q. Has there ever been a time that all Kindergarteners were bussed? A. yes- it's unfortunate that we couldn't compare data from then to now to show that transportation/weather have an impact.</i></p>

				<p><i>FRC/Health Dept. will go in and educate families on asthma and other reasons families are not bringing children to school to help improve attendance rates.</i></p>	
1:30-3:00	<p>Strategy Group Worksheet Overview & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth to three population- what NB is doing. • How to use Power School and data effectively. • Strategy Group Framework 	<p>Sarra, Mannan, Heiten</p>	.	<p><i>Review the template and the work we are doing as the ELSG- Long Term Goals- what should they be?</i></p> <p><i>B-3 Discussion involved many different thoughts and ideas. It was very hard to generalize what was discussed during this informative and reflective conversations below are some of the highlighted points.</i></p> <p><i>Families that have children with disabilities or needs of their own are auto eligible for their children to receive B-3. Parents need to agree to an evaluation where 2 different clinicians visit the home to do an elaborate assessment. Some families like it other don't. Children may have an evaluation and meet the criteria to receive services and then families may not accept the services because of fees... these cases then go to a case manager. Once the child is in prek they are eligible receive services free of charge from BOE.</i></p> <p><i>Some pediatricians encourage families to call for evaluations. When they set up an</i></p>	<p><i>Maegan- Send out new SR Flyers to Linda and Kim</i></p> <p><i>Contact read to grow.</i></p> <p><i>First thing next month create an impact statement. And strategies.</i></p>

				<p><i>evaluation B-3 will conduct visits based upon what the families indicate are concerns.</i></p> <p><i>There are 7 agencies currently working w/ B-3.</i></p> <p><i>Once a child is turning 3 and will be going to the public schools for services there is a transition meeting with B-3 to and the BOE.</i></p> <p><i>IEP vs. IFSP- small discussion about the differences- Individual Education Plan, Individual Family Service Plan</i></p> <p><i>Assessments used to determine concerns: Patel is one of them, the FRC is using ASQ, Help me Grow is using ASQ also.</i></p> <p><i>Heidi is providing a toxic stress, trauma, training on Friday 1/15 for HRA staff- we could ask her to do other trainings in the community.</i></p> <p><i>***** Programs are using developmental summaries to help aid in the referral of children.</i></p> <p><i>It is important to also reinforce parenting with our younger parents.</i></p> <p><i>Julie is a social worker working with young parents at the high school. She works solely with parenting and pregnant teens- about 80 per year. ½ of those parents are not successful</i></p>	
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				<p><i>considered to have a developmental delay which limits the resources available.</i></p> <p><i>At the age of 6 children will then be screened again and that is when they would be labeled with a disability and no longer with a "developmental delay"</i></p> <p><i>David from Klingberg- assessments and screenings- all children should be screened and assessed to utilize services available.</i></p> <p><i>We discussed how some pediatricians are completing screenings during children's physicals but it isn't a common practice. So parents need to be more educated about developmental delays to mention concerns to the doctors.</i></p> <p><i>Other towns hold family nights every month where they visually screen the children. Then they educate families and pediatricians on what screenings are available if they need a more thorough evaluation.</i></p> <p><i>Linda- in her town they have community birthday parties. Our FRC offer play and learn groups.</i></p> <p><i>YWCA holds a community baby shower run by the Health Dept.</i></p>	
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				<i>which is usually done in May to support new parents.</i>	
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