



Stafford Childhood Collaborative
 Serving as the School Readiness Council for Stafford

Mission Statement: To use the strategies identified in the Stafford Community plan to improve outcomes for children by advocating for policies, programs, and coordination of services.

Meeting notes Wednesday January 26, 2022 5-6 pm

In Attendance: Laura Lybarger, co-chair; Mandy Mayers, co-chair; Anna Gagnon, WSS Principal; Steve Autieri, STEAM, BOE Curriculum and Instruction Director; Mary Claire Manning, SES Principal; JoAnn Moriarty, FRC; Maggie Perkins-Stovall, Home School Parent; Cynthia Black, DCF; Sal Titus, First Selectman; Victoria Salzarulo, Early Head Start Coordinator; Judy Gardner, Stafford Family Services; Jen Russell, Supervisor Pupil Services; Sandy Fowler, SR Liaison

Agenda item	Time	Reported by	Community plan/ School Readiness Quality component	Meeting notes
Welcome	5 min	Co-chairs	<i>School Council membership, Responsibilities, and the Role of the Liaison (GP-C-01); Liaisons are specifically charged with the administration, coordination, and evaluation of the School Readiness grant</i>	Judy's email is now correct on the distribution list and she joins us.

			<i>in collaboration with the OEC</i>	
Funded program report 2021 supplemental funds; moving forward with the plan.	5 min	Anna Gagnon, WSS Principal Steve Moccio, Superintendent of Schools Sandy Fowler	<i>SR Component: Program Effectiveness Transition to K plan</i>	<p>Anna reports all preschool slots are filled, including the 8 SD/SY and the 14 PD/PY School Readiness funded slots. The BOE is currently serving 29 3 year olds and 64 four year olds. 14 students are expected to enroll from the birth-3 waiting list, with an additional 2 families waiting for an opening. February 1 families will be able to access the link to pre-school and kindergarten registration for the 2022-2023 school year. Families will be able to sign up for screenings held March 3 and March 31 at WSS. As in past years the WSS team will participate in screenings, with the school nurse checking health records, pre-k teachers administering the Brigance screening tool, and other school staff supporting the process. FRC/EHS will distribute flyers around town, and signs will be posted.</p> <p>95 students (63 pre-k and 32 k) were screened last year, and they are looking for higher numbers this year.</p> <p>Steve M. presented the initial budget to the BOE recently, which includes increasing a part time secretary position to full time to ensure accurate accounting of all funding initiatives at WSS. He also shared a goal to increase the number of preschool slots.</p>
McKinney-Vento update		Jenn Russell, Supervisor Pupil Services	<i>SR School Council membership, Responsibilities, and the Role of the Liaison (GP-C-01)</i>	<p>Jenn Russell, Supervisor of Pupil Services and the McKinney-Vento representative, presented an overview of the McKinney-Vento act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The act addresses the educational right of homeless students • Definition of homeless includes temporary situations, such as displaced from the home • School of origin is responsible for ensuring educational needs of students are met, including transportation • Goal is to maintain a stable school environment <p>Steve M reports Stafford has had over 20 students in years past receiving services under this act</p> <p>Steve A reports budgeting, usually for transportation, is through title 1</p>

				<p>Other supports including FRC and a recent grant application addresses the needs of these students. An update on the grant will be given at our next meeting.</p> <p>Jenn has shared the following information and links:</p> <p>https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/03/17/2016-06073/mckinney-vento-education-for-homeless-children-and-youths-program</p> <p>Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program NonRegulatory Guidance</p> <p>https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/160240ehcyguidanceupdated082718.pdf</p> <p>Frequently Asked Questions on the Educational Rights of Children and Youth in Homeless Situations</p> <p>https://naehcy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2017-10-16_NAEHCY-FAQs.pdf</p>
STEAM Grant Update	5 min	STEAM admin/staff	<p><i>SR component:</i> <i>Collaboration</i></p> <p>Document and implement processes for active collaboration with other community agencies</p>	<p>Steve A reports of the \$89,000 grant award \$74,000 has been expended. The afterschool program is fully enrolled as it has been since day 1. There are currently 10 students on the wait list.</p> <p>The family event coordinator is still opened, hiring is in process.</p> <p>First meeting of the advisory group was held December 6; SCC members are inviting to attended, please contact Steve A if interested.</p> <p>The next grant cycle will include evaluations of the program; the APT-O (Assessment of Program Practices Tool) will be used to gather data through observations.</p>
Library Update	5 min	Jessica Glazier, Stafford Library	<p><i>SR component:</i> <i>Collaboration</i></p> <p>Document and implement processes for active collaboration with other community agencies</p>	<p>No library update at this meeting.</p>

Early Head Start Update	5 min	Early Head Start	<i>SR component: Collaboration</i> Document and implement processes for active collaboration with other community agencies	Victoria reports playgroups are being held at the Stafford Community Center in a collaboration with the town, Tuesdays from 9:30-11. 8 families with 9 children participated in the first event held since March 2020. EHS is funded for 17; currently 15 are enrolled. 3 families are on the waitlist but are over income. The home visitor position is open, as Jackie Patson is now with the FRC. Victoria also reports many events are planned for the upcoming months, including an egg hunt, family haircuts, and Hyde Park events.
Family Resource Center Update Update on community resource brochure Update on playgroups	5 min	Joann Moriarty, FRC Leader	<i>SR component: Collaboration</i> Document and implement processes for active collaboration with other community agencies	JoAnn reports the FRC has 2 new staff that joined the team; Glenna Holcomb is in the position of lead childcare educator, and Jackie Patson. The holiday gift giving program, a project with EHS was able to give gifts to 24 families and 60 children, with the generosity of JMH, Hope Springs, Stafford Academy of Dance, and WSS teachers and staff. JoAnn expressed pleasure in the return to in-person play and learn groups and appreciates the collaboration with Grace Parrow and Jen Strong. JoAnn does not require registration as she does not want any barriers for families to participate. The afterschool program is currently at capacity, with 14 pre-k students (including the 8 students funded through School Readiness for school day slots) and 5 Kindergarten students enrolled. Judy asked if information could be sent to Family Services as she has clients who may be interested and could benefit from play and learn groups. JoAnn shares they are planning some small group and virtual trainings for parents. WSS teachers have requested more information from the PAT (parents as Teachers) program to share with families. All FRC/EHS staff are trained in PAT, Victoria is currently completing the training.
Other Community Agency Reports Stafford Family Services	5 min	Judy Gardner Grace Parrow	<i>SR component: Collaboration</i> Document and implement processes for active collaboration	Sal has plans to distribute a quarterly newsletter for the town; he invites SCC to send information to him to include.

Stafford Community Center		Laura Lybarger	<i>with other community agencies</i>	
EASTCONN Community Assessment report				
Scheduling meetings for small group work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JoAnn, Beth and Anna volunteered to meet with Laura and Mandy to address how to best meet legislation (see note column) • Other volunteers to serve in this small group are welcome. 	5 min		<i>Meeting FY 2022 legislation</i>	<p>Laura and Mandy will survey volunteers to schedule a meeting to address the following in order to meet 2022 legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate ideas to recruit family members • Create a form to survey current members to identify composition of the group • Identify potential business representatives
Update on Communication plan Facebook page	5 min	Laura Lybarger, co-chair	<i>SR component: Parent involvement, parenting education and outreach</i>	<p>Please take a look and email any suggestions or comments to Laura. https://www.facebook.com/staffordchildhoodcollaborative</p>
Other business				

The legislation has identified specific requirements for School Readiness programs as part of the continuum of services in quality programs that meet the needs of children and families. These indicators include:

- A plan for collaboration with other community programs and services, including public libraries and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate full-day and year-round child-care and education programs for children of working parents and parents in education or training programs;
- Parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
- Referrals for health services, including referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings;
- Nutrition services;
- Referrals to family literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;
- Admission policies that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other communities;
- A plan of transition for participating children from the School Readiness program to kindergarten and provide for the transfer of records from the program to the kindergarten program:
- A plan for professional development for staff;
- A sliding fee scale for families participating in the program;
- An annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program; and
- A plan to ensure that children with disabilities are integrated into programs with children who are not disabled.