

## NETWORKING LUNCHEON

### Meeting Minutes May 7, 2008

**Vision**

*Building Blocks will transform the mental health system of care for our youngest children and their families in Southeastern Connecticut.*

**Mission**

*Building Blocks is connecting families with individualized services and supports to promote social emotional health for children under six in Southeastern Connecticut.*

**Ground Rules**

- *Actively listen to each other and be patient. Give people time they need.*
- *Respect different opinions.*
- *One person talk at a time.*
- *Nicely say ouch if you feel uncomfortable.*
- *Use inside voices.*
- *Seek clarification in a respectful way.*
- *Agree to disagree.*
- *Welcome new members. Assign a buddy.*
- *Introductions made with personal family relations.*
- *Make sure a decision is made or an issue is placed in the parking lot to come back to at another time.*

**In Attendance:** Hillary Garrison Botsford, Kathy Bradley, Luvina Busby, Kathy Carrier, Deidre Cotter-Garfield, Melanie Smith-Cervera, Linda Fecteau, Carla Ferreira, Gail Foley, Sharyn Goode, Amy Griffin, Ginny Haas, Margaret Holmberg, Kari Howard, Joy Kaufman, Anna Long, Heidi Maderia, Amy Nickerson, Angela Peacock, Deb Resnick, Peter Schultheis, Kim Shepardson Watson, Rachel Smolenski, Victoria Nfon, Eva Marie Young, Donna Maynard, Tom Lacey, Peter DeRosa

**Minutes:** Distributed but not reviewed

**Announcement – Peter DeRosa, Chair Core Leadership**

- LEARN's 90-day notice to discontinue the Building Blocks contract has been rescinded. LEARN is meeting with DCF and drawing up a new contract. The Building Blocks program will continue.
- Elaine Fitzgerald has resigned and Linda Fecteau is the Interim Project Director. Kathy Bradley is the new Principal Investigator for the grant.
- There will be restructuring with Core as the governance body for Building Blocks.
- Peter hoped this meeting will continue and was very pleased with the number of people who attend.

**Presentation – Melanie Smith-Cervera, 2-1-1 Child Care Overview:**

- United Way is the umbrella agency of 2-1-1 Child Care. 2-1-1 is a partnership established in 1976 between Connecticut and the 24 local United Ways.
- **2-1-1 infoline** is a confidential child care referral telephone service. The infoline maintains current listings of child care programs, nanny agencies, nursery schools, play groups, summer camps, Head Start and school readiness programs.
- **Child Care Service Requests**
  - Child Care Referral Specialists help families find quality child care.
  - Examples of Information given are choosing quality care for children, information on current program openings and programs with special needs experience.
  - Referral specialists educate parents and providers on quality indicators in early childhood programs.
  - Specialists provide information and business assistance to child care providers.
    - Examples - Provide referrals to trainings and workshops, how to become a licensed child care provider and support services for relative caregivers.

### **Updates**

- State of Connecticut – Starting the next flu season children will need flu shots from 6 months of age to 18 years of age.
- Tanika Simpson asked the group for feedback on whether or not the USCGA was a convenient place to continue holding the Networking Luncheons.
- The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2008, 12:30pm-2:30pm at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Alumni Center.

*Submitted by Gail Foley*