

**ENFIELD SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL
KITE COLLABORATIVE
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2024, 5:30 P.M.**



The mission of KITE is to ensure that Enfield's children are healthy, safe, and happy; live in thriving families; and are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed in school and flourish in the 21st century.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Carol LaLiberte, KITE Chairperson

There were 21 members present		
Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library	Stephanie Allery- Parent Ambassador
Melanie Dube- KITE	LeAnn Beaulieu- KITE	Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool
Jennefer Ryan- KITE	Eileen Gardner- ECDC	George Hendrickson- Ujima
Steve Kaselouskas – Enfield Police	Steven Ling- Holy Trinity Church	Alena Josephson- Child First
Katie Carlton- PLA	Michelle Zaugg- Parent Ambassador	Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Department
Marie Pynzar- Town Council	Cat Merriam- Parks and Recreation	Lanie LeBrun- Enfield Food Shelf
Amy Morales- Social Services	Carol LaLiberte- Asnuntuck Comm. College	Chris Gomeau- KITE

ACCEPTANCE OF KITE MEETING MINUTES- June Minutes

- The June 5, 2024, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

SCHOOL READINESS BUSINESS/QUALITY ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

- All 28 slots are full at ECDC.
- McKinney Vento Update:
 - Numbers of homeless students provided by Julie Carroll, McKinney-Vento Liaison:
 - PK: 3
 - K-2: 3
 - 3-5: 4
 - Middle School: 8
 - High School: 5
- The funding for full-day spaces increased so the total grant amount has increased by \$46,334 which will help fund staff salaries and benefits. Lisa Carriere continues to provide the classroom observations and review of lesson plans and files and will be setting up some visits this month.
- **Early Start:** Early Start CT (ESCT) is a new state-funded early care and education program that's launching in July 2025. It combines 3 existing programs — Child Day Care Contracts, School Readiness Grants, and State Head Start Supplement Grants — into 1 program.
 - This new program will make things easier for providers — with less paperwork and more predictable pay schedules. We're dedicated to reaching more families and making it easier for them to know their options for high-quality early care and education programming.
 - All ESCT providers will be supported by Local Governance Partners (LGPs) and liaisons, whose roles will include:
 - Providing coaching and resources
 - Conducting compliance monitoring
 - Engaging the community
 - Connecting providers with the Office of Early Childhood (OEC)
 - OEC will implement the selection process for Local Governance Partners, and more information will be shared in the coming months.
 - Extensive public feedback during Connecticut's Blue-Ribbon Panel on Child Care drove the recommendation and design of Early Start CT. From <https://www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct/>
- School Readiness Liaisons are attending a meeting of the CT Children's Collective on September 11th where the Local Governance Partners will be discussed. There have been various meetings with OEC, and we are being told there is a lot of information still to be determined. I will keep everyone informed as I learn more.
- Quality Enhancement- The contract has been signed with EastConn to focus on Staff Coaching on Pyramid Implementation.
- Classroom updates: The children have moved into their new classrooms and are adjusting well. The staff in those classrooms started Home Visiting and asked the families to discuss their hopes and dreams for their children for the upcoming school year. The children will be going apple picking in September and Pumpkin picking in October.
 - ECDC staff are still in the process of receiving Circle of Security Training.

EQUITY- Carol LaLiberte

- Carol shared that every month KITE has an equity piece in our collaborative meetings. A sign up was passed around for the remainder of the year.

KITE UPDATES

- **Vote**
 - The Collaborative voted and approved the FY24-25 Collaborative goals.

- **Leadership Workgroup Updates**
 - Handed out the most recent Progress Report for the Enfield Early Childhood Community Plan. KITE is receiving the following funding for FY 24-25: Town of Enfield Social Services, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Fund for Greater Hartford, RAPID, Office of Early Childhood (OEC), and Parent Trust Fund. Brianna shared deliverables of each funding source. KITE is in the process of finding a new Program Coordinator.
- **Budget**
 - KITE expenditures for FY2024 – May Expenditures \$17,679.59, June Expenditures \$10,712.53, July Expenditures \$8,263.66. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.
- **Communications**
 - In the month of June/July/August KITE published 34 posts.
 - 20 posts KITE specific (Mental Health Expo @EHS, New Parent Ambassadors, Enfield Unplugged with Renee, Community Assessment Review, Play Workshop in Hartford, KITE Lunch link visit, Summer Break Wishes, Grad Wishes, Father's Day, KCAMP, Kari & Brianna's Birthday, Job Post for Program Coordinator, Nutrition Workshop, STOWE Play Article, Welcome Back).
 - 14 partner/community content shares (Lunch Link, First Readers, Youth Services workshop, BOE-New Super meeting, CTFSN Playgroup, Juneteenth, Rock the Vote, Summer Reading Kick off, Library Book Sale, National Pride Month) 8,976 total reaches
 - | Down 4.6% | 1,690 total engagements | #1 post Program Coordinator 5,340 reached 80 engagements. #2 post Nutrition workshop 903 reached 101 engagements.

AREA FOCUS TEAMS:

- **Result #1: Enfield's Children are Safe, Happy, and Healthy**
 - **Infant/Child Mental Health**
 - Chris reported on the Pediatric Dinner Report from July 25th at Grassmere Country Club.
 - KITE in partnership with Enfield Head Start brought together local pediatricians and staff to discuss the mental health needs of young children, the broader district, as well as resources to provide connection and networking. Dr. Villa's, Dr. Panchal's, Pioneer Valley Pediatrics, and Enfield Pediatric Associates were in attendance.
 - Speakers included: Interim Superintendent Andy Longey; Amy Morales, Social Services; Jaclyn Valley, Director of Early Childhood Initiatives at Stowe Early Learning Center; Dr. Calnen, Retired pediatrician and Board of Education Mental Health Sub-Committee Chair; and Brianna Beckstrand, KITE Director.
 - Resource representatives were Joanna Fornwalt (Social Services), Melissa Howe (DCF), Child First, and the CT Network.
 - Magnets were created for the staff lounges that connect to local mental health resources. If someone would like their resource on the landing page, please email Chris.
 - One result was pediatric staff asking to be connected to KITE.
 - The next KITE Mental Health Sub-Committee will be held on September 23rd from 4:00pm to 5:00pm via Zoom.
 - Chris Gomeau is serving as KITE's representative on The Enfield Together Coalition's Mental Health and Wellness Coalition Leadership Workgroup.
 - They are having a kick-off event at Asnuntuck on September 27th. Brianna and Chris will be attending on behalf of KITE. They are still looking for a business representative to serve on this group. If you know anyone that would be interested, please reach out to Chris.
 - **Sparkler**
 - Brianna will begin sharing monthly dashboard updates for Sparkler up in November.
 - Amy Morales shared that Erin Grimes is still at Dr. Villa's office through the Integrated Pediatric Pilot, and she just reached 100 Sparkler signups at the office.
- **Result #2: Enfield's children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**
 - **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
 - Kindergarten Camp was very successful in partnership with EPS and the Family Resource Center. 16 children attended. Survey results will be debriefed by committee.
 - KITE had a table at the Stowe BOE orientation last week and shared about the voting process with families.
 - **Parent Leadership Academy**
 - No new updates.
 - **Parent Ambassadors**
 - Held a Community Café on healthy eating with Registered Dietitian Jacqui Campbell. It was very well received by all families that attended. Many children tried new foods, and it was a very hands-on experience for everyone.
- **Result #3: Enfield's children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21st century.**
 - **3 TO 3**
 - No new updates. Next meeting will be later this month.
 - **First Readers**
 - No new updates. Next meeting will be later this month.
 - **Book Buddies**
 - No new updates.
 - **Rocking Chair Readers**
 - Readers will be notified after the first couple of weeks of school to schedule weekly or monthly visits to the classrooms.
 - **2GEN/Play Lab (Tabled)**

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.