



## Enfield School Readiness Council

### KITE Collaborative

Wednesday April 2nd, 2025, 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.***

**Welcome and Introductions** – Carol LaLiberte, KITE Chairperson

There were 27 members present		
Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	George Hendrickson- Ujima	Eileen Gardner- ECDC
Carol LaLiberte- CT State-Asnuntuck	LeAnn Beaulieu- KITE	Marie Pyznar- Town Council
Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education	Lanie Lebrun- Enfield Food Shelf	Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library
Kari Aretta- KITE	Chris Gomeau- KITE	Amy Morales- Social Services
Rosalind Swift- Ujima	Kristin Herzig- Parent Ambassador	Karen Edelson- Social Services
Dan Corthell- HUMC	Jennefer Ryan- KITE	Cat Merriam- Parks and Recreation
Barbara Vita- CT Children's Collective	Reverend Ling- Holy Trinity Church	Amy Witbro- KITE
Kelly Sorrow- Parent Cabinet	Adrienne Snow- EPS	Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool
Steven Kaselouskas- Enfield Police	Hannah Song- KITE	Brittany Wagner- CT State-Asnuntuck Student

#### Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes- March Minutes

- The March 5, 2025, 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: 0
    - K-2: 6
    - 3-5: 7
    - Middle School: 9
    - High School: 10
- Early Start: ECDC and Enfield Public Schools received their Early Start award notifications and are submitted what was required to receive their contract with OEC. Details are still being worked out for the transitions to Early Start and we will share more information in the coming months.
- ECDC Classroom/Center Updates:
  - The Preschool children went on a field trip to Amelia Park in Westfield. They all had a great time with the hands-on exhibits.
  - The center participated in a fundraiser on March 21<sup>st</sup> Rock your Socks for Down's Syndrome.
  - All classrooms have completed Circle of Security classroom edition.
  - We are still in the process of being trained to administer the Mchat, as part of the Bridging the Gap Project.
  - Melanie from EastConn is continuing her coaching work with us on the Pyramid model.
  - We will be celebrating Week of the Young Child next week. Each classroom plans an activity that goes along with the theme that NAEYC puts out.

#### Equity- Brianna Beckstrand – KITE

- Brianna shared the poem, "A Heritage Fair" by Enfield's Poet Laureate, Nzima Hutchings. Nzima wrote this personally for the Heritage Fair.

#### KITE Updates

- Leadership Workgroup Updates**
  - Brianna shared that Melanie's last day is tomorrow, April 3rd. The entire LWG and Collaborative wish her the best of success and happiness as she makes her return to Enfield Public Schools. We will miss you! There is a position now open that KITE is hiring for, anyone interested should send their letter of intent and resume to Brianna. KITE applied for LGP Transition Funding to help with any legal changes coming as a result of CT's Early Start legislation. KITE received the Children's Collective second half payment of \$15,000.
- Budget**
  - KITE expenditures for FY2025 –February Expenditures \$13,235.16. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.

- **Communications**
  - In the month of March KITE published 34 posts.
  - 32 posts KITE specific (Science Night, Heritage Fair, Kindergarten Night, Staff Birthdays, Job Post, St Patrick's Day, Read Across America, KITE Out and About Staff Wellness). 2 partner/community content shares (FRC Elder Support Group, Ujima Healing thru the Arts) 11,300 total reaches | Up 353.6% | 45,700 total views | Up 390.4% | 633 total interactions (Up 185.1%) | #1 post (BOOSTED) Heritage Fair Schedule 4,900 reached 56 interactions. #2 post (BOOSTED) Science & Play Night 2,300 reached 96 interactions. #1 Organic post KITE Job Post 2,100 reached 20 interactions.

#### Area Focus Teams:

- **Result #1: Enfield's Children are Safe, Happy, and Healthy**
  - **Infant/Child Mental Health**
    - **KITE MH Sub-Committee** met on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-5 via. Zoom. Updates were shared on the ETC Mental Health Coalition and Enfield Crisis Response Team. The ETC MH Coalition has formed its first workgroup working on a neighbor-to-neighbor initiative (name to be determined). Brianna and Jennefer sit on this workgroup. Joanna Fornwalt explained that the Enfield Crisis Response Team is expanding from deaths by suicide to untimely deaths across the lifespan, focusing on more than just youths. The next Postvention training will take place on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Joanna stressed that Postvention is Prevention. May 12-May 18 is Suicide Prevention Week.
    - **ETC Mental Health Coalition** met on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9-10:30 at Social Services. Presentations given were on CT State Asnuntuck and CT Cannabis Laws and Policies.
    - The FRC presented to the Board of Education on March 11 on Circle of Security Parenting and the Circle of Security Classroom approach – it was very well received and there was engaging conversation from the Board.
  - **Sparkler**
    - There are 987 children registered in Sparkler. In the last month, a total of 488 Plays have been logged. 65% of completed ASQs were on track, and 67% for the ASQ-SE. There was a total of 18 recommendations for referrals, the highest area of need being personal social. Collaborative discussed how data can be used and would love to hear screening data from the other assessments pediatric offices might use.
- **Result #2: Enfield's children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**
  - **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
    - Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten Night is tomorrow, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Over 270 invitations were mailed, and invitations were digitally and personally sent to centers and home providers. This event will be recorded and uploaded to KITE's YouTube channel for any families who cannot make it.
  - **Parent Leadership Academy**
    - PLA Graduation will be May 15<sup>th</sup> at Enfield High School starting at 6:00 pm. RSVPs are due by May 9<sup>th</sup> at llawlor@enfield.org.
  - **Parent Ambassadors**
    - Kristin shared that they are running a mental health/massage night at CT State-Asnuntuck during Enfield Unplugged Week in May. Parent Cabinet Representative from Region 4, Kelly Sorrow, was in attendance and shared the work of the cabinet to reach and elevate family voice to Office of Early Childhood.
  - **Heritage Fair**
    - What a great weekend! We had 275+ people attend the fair, without including the volunteers, table exhibitors, performers, and committee members. There were beautiful table displays, community members making connections, performers engaging their audiences and the smell of delectable cuisine. The feedback I received from table exhibitors and attendees was positive. They really enjoyed the event and expressed the desire to be a part of it again. We provided the community with a QR code to leave feedback, which I can share once we gather the information.
- **Result #3: Enfield's children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**
  - **3 TO 3**
    - 3 TO 3 hosted the Play and Science Night last Wednesday evening in the EHS cafe. We welcomed 198 attendees: PK-Grade 1 children and their families. The CT Science Center brought a variety of stations that incorporated play such as the balance challenge and robots. It was an energizing and joyful experience!
    - Our next event is in the works- an opportunity for centers to learn about the great value of the work they do in the transition to kindergarten. Event will take place April 24<sup>th</sup> 6-7:30pm at CT State-Asnuntuck with guest speaker Peg Oliveira.
    - Adrienne handed out cards for the collaborative to fill out for Childcare Appreciation Day on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - **First Readers**
    - Next meeting will be held April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm in the library.
  - **Book Buddies**
    - No new updates.
  - **Rocking Chair Readers**
    - Readers and teachers have been contacted about interest for this school year. We had some new readers that have started in the classrooms, and we are still waiting on a couple of responses. If you know anyone that is interested, please reach out to Brianna.
  - **2GEN (Tabled)**
  - **Play Lab (Tabled)**

#### Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.