**Mayor’s Cabinet for Young Children**

**Regular Meeting on November 15, 2022**

**MEETING MINUTES-DRAFT FOR APPROVAL**

1. **Call to order:** A meeting of the Mayor’s Cabinet for Young Children was virtually held on 11/15/22. The meeting was called to order at 2p.m.

1. **Roll Call**

**Cabinet Attendees**

Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, Marie Jarry, Dr. Paul Dworkin, Leslie Carrill, Liany Arroyo, Ayesha Clarke, Stephan Palmer, Galo Rodriguez, Jennifer Gifford, Lena Rodriguez, Alex Johnson, Cesarina Thompson, Greg Florio, Maris Pelkey, Karen Lott, Darnel Mojica

**2.2 Members Not in Attendance**: Mayor Luke Bronin, Joel Cruz, Minal Kulkarni, Lorie McLean.

**3. Approval of 9/20/22 Meeting Minutes** - Moved to motion by Leslie Torres-Rodriguez and second by Dr. Paul Dworkin all were in favor of approval.

**4.Administrative Updates:** Interim Director Kristina Baldwin welcomed all of the Mayor’s Cabinet members and Katie McGinnis invited attendees to introduce themselves on the chat.

Superintendent Leslie Rodriguez-Torres spoke about the chronic absenteeism when students miss 10% or more The school ACE and student engagement team is working hard on this use and identifying the route cause of the absence.

* Last year that was 46%
* The end of the year target is 35%
* September was 29%
* This year we are at 26%.
* End of the year target is 28%

**Presentation:**

***Launch into Career Early Childhood Education:***  The first two courses ended last month in October the next two courses began in November. Currently we have 5 students that are in the work placement program. Currently 11 students are set to graduate by December 2022. Students are required to compete a 10-hour student teaching within the community programs in November and are set to finish by the end of next week.

***Hartford Talks****:* Currently going through an upward pipeline recruitment plan. We have eight cohorts graduating this Friday, and Magdalene Garcia is responsible for creating a marketing plan, working with the NRZ, and recruiting bilingual coaches. A press release for Hartford Talks is scheduled for January 25th 2023.

***Family Childcare Network & Child and Adult Care Food Program****:* The press release with United Way CT that was previously scheduled for November 14th has been postponed. We have the ability to provide services for up to 425 licensed care providers. DFCYR has a plan to sustain additional two years of homegrown funding.

***COVID IMPACT:*** CTData has received $40,000 dollar grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation research data on the impacts COVID had on children. A 3-focus survey plan has been created related to the pandemics impact on children in Hartford.

***School Readiness****:* For the fiscal years of 23-24 DFCYR will receive an additional $155,600 IN SUPPLEMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS. Programs will receive a quarterly reimbursement based on enrollment. The OEC registry is providing financial support to teachers and staff. Currently the school readiness monitoring rubric is being evaluated by external consultants. Katie McGinnis highlighted the statewide enrollment data collecting from September 2022, showcasing priority cities including Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, and New Britain, among others. DFCYR has the capacity to support 1,281 children.

***CDC:*** Child Day Care expansion funding round 1 has begun.

Round 1- City of Hartford received 44 spaces for sub-contractors and $75,000 for each classroom for renovations and staffing.

* + - Women’s League Child Development Center Inc
    - Pequenin Academy
    - YWCA Growing tree
    - Metzner

Round 2- Mayors cabinet will be able to apply for the current programs’ funds.

Round 3- Open for all licensed center-based programs.

**Parent Cabinet:** Meeting are held the third Wednesday of every month 6:00 pm dinner and 6:30pm meeting at the downtown Hartford library.

* + October meeting discussion was regarding the COVID impacts on young children and families and how to support them
  + A retreat will be held to recruit parents by the parent ambassadors
  + Parent Ambassadors: Yeraida Renheimer, Stephan Palmer, Latonia Kendrick, James Lightfoot, and Brenda Morales DuMonuz.

**Working Groups:** Transition to Kindergarten, Community Outreach and Engagement, Healthy Children, Infant and Toddler Development, Early Language and Literacy, and Mental and Behavioral Health.

* Focus is to establish the topic of quality components for the early learning community
* Contracting LECTIO consultants to support in creating data driven measurable goals
* Providing data to Mayors Cabinet to enhance early childhood focus in Hartford

**Mayors Cabinet for Young Children:** The Local Early Childhood Collaborative funders provided support to DFCYR staff and has asked the Mayors Cabinet for Young Children to review and focus on the following questions:

* Why does the Mayors Cabinet exist?
* What are the goals for the Mayors Cabinet?
* How are those goals carried out and shared within the group and publicly?

**Discussion:** Presented the blueprint for action, 2005, vision of the Mayors Cabinet and discussed what should be the mission of the Mayors Cabinet. The following topics were discussed

* + Getting key data sets as what the ecosystem of our youngest learners are and their demographics;
  + Looking at data sets and bylaws;
  + Macro and systemic building approach;

1. **Business Agenda:** Recommendation Approvals
   1. Apply for CDC Expansion – Moved to motion by Superintendent, approved by Maris Pelkey, seconded by Paul Dworkin.
   2. YMCA to move 3 school readiness slots to Betances- Moved to motion by Superintendent, approved by Liany Arroyo, seconded by Paul Dworkin
   3. Nomination for New parent ambassador for the Mayor’s Cabinet for Young Children Yeraida Renheimer- Moved to motion by Superintendent, Approved by Paul Dworkin, second by Liany Arroyo
2. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:14p.m.