

Self Help, Inc. Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Advisory Council Meeting  
Minutes of Foxboro Meeting for December 14, 2017

**Present:**

Betsy Paras, Kennedy Donovan Center  
Leslie Dunn, SHI/CFCE  
Michele Davidson, SHI/CFCE

Maureen Sass, Children's Express (Norton, WB)  
Evelyn Gonzalez, Child Care Resources

**Introductions:** At 1:05 pm, Michele Davidson called the meeting to order and all members were reminded to sign in, take a copy of the minutes from 10/11/17 as well as all other handouts provided. All present introduced themselves and the program they represented.

**Minutes from 10/11/17:** The Council was asked to review the minutes from the October 11<sup>th</sup> council meeting. *Maureen Sass made a motion to accept the minutes. Betsy Paras seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**FY 18 CFCE Council Chair Election:** Leslie informed the Council that we didn't have any nominees for Council Chair, and she opened it up to the group to anyone who would like to make a nomination. Maureen Sass offered to run for Chair. *Betsy Paras made a motion to approve Maureen Sass as Chair of the CFCE Advisory Council for FY 18. Evelyn Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Community Needs Discussion:** Leslie informed the Council that EEC is requiring CFCE's to submit a report in February about our Annual Needs Assessment Process. This Annual Needs Assessment is done each year in order to assist with planning services for families. As part of that process this year, CFCE will be discussing community needs with our Council to assist us in identifying needs and making changes to our Annual Needs Survey. Members were asked to think about the needs and trends that they are seeing in their communities. Members came up with the following: Technology is sometimes getting in the way. Cell phones, screen time, video games, etc. Children and parents do not interact during car rides...used to play games in the car. Families are rushed, over-scheduled. Increased DCF involvement due to addiction. Grandparents raising grandchildren. The best way to get to the parents is building relationships with them... through teachers. Children experiencing trauma for various reasons increases behavior issues. Members thought engaging parents through training is crucial and the best way is through social events that educate but also include free food, child care, etc.

**Child Care Resources- Evelyn Gonzalez:** Evelyn discussed the process of accessing community resources and voucher information. There is currently a waitlist. Families can also access stipends for a family/friend to care for their child.

**Updates:**

**CFCE Budget Expenditures:** Leslie handed out, and went over the CFCE Budget Expenditures report and service delivery report.

**Cradles to Crayons:** Leslie reminded members that if they had a parent in need of children's clothing or equipment to please let her know.

**November is Literacy Month:** Michele updated the Council about CFCE's Literacy Month in November. This year's theme was ALL ABOUT ME. We had representation from Representative William Galvin's aid Joanne read to the children at the Avon Public Library. An email with activities relating to all about me and some great resources was sent to all parents and providers. All that participated received an ALL About Me booklet from the United Way.

**Joy to the Children applications/flyer:** The application deadline for the J2TCP was Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. At this time we are supporting 170 families and 381 children with gifts of clothes, toys and some food boxes. Families will pick up their items at the Avon office on December 18 and 19. Thank you to all of our very generous sponsors!!

Michele asked members if they had anything to share.

Michele informed members that the next council meeting will be in Avon on 2/14/18 at 10 am

*Books were raffled*

*Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.*

*Respectfully submitted by Michele Davidson, SHI/CFCE Coordinator*