Meeting Summary

Children’s Trust Fund Council

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

**Members Present**: Laura Amenta (Chair), Eva Bunnell, Rosa Biaggi, Robert Farr, Sylvia Gafford Alexander, Jonathan Harris, Judy Carson, Nina Livingston,

**Members Absent:** Paul Dworkin, Mark Meyers, Carolyn Signorelli, Charlie Slaughter, Bonnie Stewart, Shannon Wegele, Karen Foley Schain

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| Agenda Item | Discussion/Action |
| Welcome | Meeting was convened by Laura Amenta and introductions made. |
| Budget:  Council’s Recession Proposal &  Impact of Governor Malloy’s Legislative Package | Laura shared that the Commissioner accepted the advice and proposal of the Council and submitted a revised CTF Recession plan to OPM.  Governor Malloy released his biennial budget for 2014 and 2015. A spreadsheet highlighting the impact of the plan was discussed. The legislative plan includes the formation of the OEC and the merger of Help Me Grow and NFN into the OEC. Healthy Start is facing a 67% cut and will remain in DSS. All other state funded programs are facing elimination. Federal funded programs will face cuts/eliminations as the CBCAP grant stream is expected to be severely impacted by this plan.  Following discussion, the Council agreed that the formation of OEC was a positive step for the state and should not be contested. It was agreed that advocacy from the Council should focus on restoring Trust Fund programs and keeping them together. |
| Legislative Work | Laura has sent out budget alerts to “Friends” of the Trust Fund asking for help in advocating for Trust Fund programs.  Peter Smith from Rome, Smith and Lutz agreed to help lobby on behalf of the Trust Fund Pro-Bono. Liz Brown is lobbying in support of Healthy Start and funded through providers not the Council.  One strategy suggested is to provide input to other bills where the Trust Fund could be seen as an ally. Public testimony on the benefits of CTF programs was presented by Chair and others at public hearings on: Appropriations/budget, Mental Health, Violence, State-wide hot-line.  New staff member, Will Kaufmann, has accepted a position to help the Council with community organizing, messaging and legislative advocacy help and will be starting within the next few weeks.  Unfortunately, the January legislative briefing that was to be hosted by Commissioner Bremby was cancelled. The Council can proceed on its own to host this event. After discussion, it was felt that the legislators were overwhelmed with issues of gun control and mental health and other issues and the fall would be a better time to target for such an event. |
| Triple P Rollout in Eastern CT | Triple P for Eastern CT was launched on January 16. Despite the snow, fifty providers joined the community event to learn about Triple P. |
| Next Steps/Next Meeting | March 19 2:00 – 4:00  Laura will ask chairs of subcommittees to report on progress starting the next meeting. |