



06/08/2018

**Direct Impact (DI) Programs Committee: Nancy Weissler, Chair**

The DI Programs Committee continues to meet regularly to discuss implementation topics for the Early Childhood Achievement Gap Solutions (ECAGS) Initiative and Human Services Technology Solutions (HSTS) program and monitor Youth Impact Programs. The committee met once in May to discuss the completion of partner agreements, project timelines, staffing, event planning, research and evaluation, fiscal monitoring, implementation strategies and partner relations. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Early Childhood Achievement Gap Solutions Initiative:**

**Subcontracts/Agreements:** Partnerships agreements have been completed, reviewed and signed. G UW committee members and program staff initiated meetings and provided ongoing support to get the agreements signed prior to the launch event.

**Launch Event:** The ECAGS launch event took place on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Greenwich Library's Cole Auditorium from 8:45-10 am. Dr. Janice Gruendel's presentation provided an in-depth look at the causes, development, and outcomes of toxic stress in young children. The information she shared highlighted the need for early childhood intervention and she supported the design of the ECAGS model and commitment of the Greenwich community. G UW looks forward to scheduling a movie screening of *Resilience* with Dr. Gruendel in the fall.

**Staffing:** Applications for the Pre-school Instructional Coach (PSIC) and Early Childhood Consultant/Expert (ECE) positions continue to be pre-screened by program staff. Over 35 applications have been submitted for each position. Appropriate applicants were brought in for in-person interviews and the process yielded a good number of finalists for the PSIC role to be interviewed by the Interview Committee. The committee consists of G UW staff and Board members, impact partner staff, and Greenwich Public Schools staff. The Interview Committee interviewed one application then used a scoring rubric to evaluate the candidate. Program staff is in the process of scheduling additional interviews.

Family Centers has confirmed the start of two bi-lingual parent educators and two part-time supervisors to operate the Parents as Teachers (PAT) component of the program. Program staff will start on June 4<sup>th</sup>. These educators will undergo training in the various counseling and assessment components of the PAT curriculum throughout June and July.

Michael Najem, our summer intern from Yale University, started on May 14<sup>th</sup> and has worked closely with program staff on data tracking design and impact measurement. Kelvin Chung, our intern from Greenwich High School, joined us on May 21<sup>st</sup> and has been compiling information on Greenwich United Way's history and updating our Community Answers webpage.

Data and Measurements: Program staff held its first of two workshops with the Harvard Business School Club of CT Community Partners, impact partners, and committee members on May 31<sup>st</sup> to craft the data tracking procedure for ECAGS. The second workshop is scheduled to take place in mid-July after Family Centers program staff has been trained in the various components of the PAT curriculum.

GUW Staff have been contacted by the Educational Development Center (EDC), a non-profit with 60 years of experience doing research, evaluation, and program design around education, health, and development, about a possible partnership to aid with ECAGS impact measurement and evaluation. GUW staff and EDC will meet to explore a possible partnership moving forward.

Communications: Program staff continues to organize ECAGS messaging meetings to ensure effective collaboration and communication with all of our impact partners. GUW program staff met with our impact partners to review press releases, newsletters and website build outs. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Fiscal: The Finance Committee and Program staff continue to work on creating a new financial report for all Direct Impact Programs.

### **Human Services Technology Solutions:**

Human Services Technology Solutions has been making progress toward its launch. Planning meetings were held with VisionLink and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to build-out and refine an implementation plan and project cost structure. Program staff is drafting an agreement to document the relationship between the GUW and DHS.

Program staff is working on organizing a meeting with VisionLink, ClientTrack, DHS staff and Tom Klein, Director of IT for the Town of Greenwich, to discuss topics on system compatibility and integration.

The next planning with DHS staff is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Youth Impact Programs:**

Throughout May, Youth Impact Programs continued to hold their regularly scheduled Reading Champions sessions in elementary schools and after school programs and weekly GJrUW meetings.

### Champions:

Program staff launched a pilot of a new Champions program, Finance Champions. This program aims to increase financial literacy in students between grades 6 through 8 before

they enter high school. It aims to familiarize these students with basic financial concepts like income and debt with the goal of preparing them for the conversations they will be having around these topics when they apply to colleges and beyond. In May, the program ran two pilot sessions with a group of middle school students enrolled in the Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich after school program. GJrUW members were the tutors who are enrolled in Brunswick's Finance Club. Program staff is working on a strategic plan for launching this program in the fall.

Reading Champions staff hosted multiple end-of-the-year medal ceremonies with volunteers, students, family members and GJrUW Board members in attendance. Medal ceremonies occur at all program locations to celebrate student and achievement.

Program staff hosted the bi-annual liaison meeting to review program successes and discuss program improvements for next year.

Greenwich Junior United Way (GJrUW): GJrUW membership increased and regularly scheduled meetings occur at the YWCA. GJrUW members are focusing on hosting an event in collaboration with Abilis and the YWCA that will take place on June 9th.