



October 10, 2018

Reporting Period: July-August 2018

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

The DI Programs Committee continues to meet regularly to discuss program topics for the Early Childhood Achievement Gap Solutions (ECAGS) program, implementing the Human Services Technology Solutions (HSTS) program and expanding/enhancing Youth Impact programs. The committee met once in September and in October to discuss project timelines, staffing, event planning, research and evaluation, fiscal monitoring, ongoing implementation strategies and partner relations. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5th.

I. Early Childhood Achievement Gap Solutions Update:

Program Development:

G UW hosted a screening of the film *Resilience*, which is a documentary on adverse childhood experiences (ACES) that can impair children’s ability to learn and thrive. The documentary provided research-based support for programs such as PAT, which focuses on parent education and physical and mental health to mitigate the impact of ACES. As part of the program, David Rabin provided an update on the ECAGS program and Janice Gruendel moderated a discussion after the film. Over 100 people attended, including: ECAGS donors, G UW Board and Advisory Council members, impact partner staff, community groups and the public. A front-page article in the Greenwich Time highlighted the work G UW is doing to close the achievement gap and promoted the event.

G UW staff presented at the September School Readiness Council meeting and provided an update on the program and the progress of achievement gap work in Greenwich.

G UW program staff hosted a meeting with Kristen Mulhearn, Greenwich Public School District Social Worker, to provide an update on the program. G UW staff attended the Greenwich Alliance for Education Grants reception and provided an update on the program for all guests.

Staffing: The ECAGS program is fully staffed. One GPAT Parent Educator went on maternity leave towards the end of August and will return on October 15, 2018.

Staff Training: GPAT Parent Educators and their supervisors continued to strengthen their knowledge on various counseling and assessment components of the PAT curriculum. Additional staff training will focus on the ASQ assessments and generating reports from Penelope, the database that PAT requires affiliates to use.

The Pre-school Instructional Coach (PSIC) will continue to attend the School Readiness Council

workshops and upcoming trainings on the Connecticut DOTS assessment, which is to be used by pre-school teachers to assess children's progress on mastering early learning skills.

Data and Measurements: G UW program staff developed a quarterly report template and guidance document for Family Centers leadership. The FC report was submitted late due to a technical issue, on their end, and FC program staff sent a revised marketing report a week later.

G UW program staff developed documents and tools to collect data across all sites around program administration, teaching outcomes, student outcomes and parent outcomes.

GPAT-G UW staff held a meeting on 10/2 to address program challenges and questions related to the program. Overall, the meeting was successful which addressed barriers to service delivery and improving future program reports. The report stated 3 families have been enrolled and 3 families are on the wait list until they hit 6-month pre-natal milestone for enrollment.

PSIC-The PSIC has interviewed 39 staff and 2 administrators across four pre-school sites. The PSIC is working closely with the ECE and Director of CI on three program areas listed below:

- 1) Feedback, reflections and analyzing initial staff interviews
- 2) Confirming reporting structures at each pre-school site
- 3) Scheduling site visits/observations with each teaching team

This will inform the work of the PSIC moving forward.

G UW program staff is working with leadership from FC and YMCA to obtain baseline pre-school data. G UW is working with data administrators from Greenwich Public schools to obtain student outcome data and has a meeting scheduled for 10/12. Data requests from impact partners come with delays and staff is working with impact partners to see how they can help with timely data submission.

G UW will continue to work with program staff on timely and accurate reports and data requests.

Communications: Program staff continued to organize ECAGS messaging communications to ensure effective collaboration and communication with all our impact partners. G UW program staff communicate with our impact partners to review press releases, newsletters and website updates.

Fiscal: G UW received an August invoice and July back-up for the program in September. G UW program staff review all invoices and supporting document to ensure accurate payment.

II. Human Services Technology Solutions Update:

The Greenwich Department of Human Services delay in joining the program has created implementation challenges. G UW staff continues to engage VisionLink and Community Centers Inc., on changes to program implementation.

III. Youth Impact Programs Update:

Throughout September, Youth Impact programs focused on planning for Reading Champions, expanding Finance Champions and starting-up GJrUW.

Champions:

Site Liaison Meeting-

On 9/20, an annual kick-off for the start of the 11th academic year for Reading Champions was held. This meeting was held at the GUW offices with a first segment that included a discussion about the volunteer team updates, materials, measures of literacy success and planning for future meetings which included the Mid-Year Volunteer Town Hall Meeting to be held during January/February. Supplies were distributed to Site Liaisons to fully support the year ahead.

Reading Champions Volunteer Open House-

The event took place on 10/2, from 10am until noon, at the Woman's Club and was attended by over 60 people which included 20 prospective volunteers. It featured several key speakers; Reverend Dan Haugh (Round Hill Community Church), Karen Bakota (Literacy Specialist at North Street School) and Barbara Kavanagh (Reading Champions Site Liaison at North Street & Parkway Schools). The discussion focused on the benefit the program has in supporting literacy growth for emerging reading in GPS Elementary Schools and what is involved in the mentoring process. As a result, our training sheet became filled with new volunteers.

Volunteer Recruitment/Vetting Processing-

Program staff continued to recruit and on-board new volunteers. Staff conducted outreach with community organizations for flyer postings. Staff performed background checks on all prospective and current volunteers and contacted new volunteers.

Training Process-

Staff set-up 3 training time periods in the week after the Open House. Staff prepared and provided oversight to the training process. She will discuss the assessment process and facilitate the on-boarding with new volunteers. New tutors will be assigned to sites based on volunteer preferences and student need.

Data and Measurements-

102 tutors returned to the program with highly favorable feedback from the annual survey (including many referrals) and 24 new tutors. The number of exact students to be served is determined after assessments.

Finance Champions-

Program staff hosted strategic discussions about the overall pilot, schedule, program goals and volunteer recruitment. Staff worked closely with Nancy Kail and Deelia Wadsworth, Volunteer Coordinator for the Boys and Girls Club, on the roll-out of Finance Champions. The program will begin on Thursday, November 1, go through December, and end with a Certificate Recognition event.

Greenwich Junior United Way (GJrUW):

GUW program staff held multiple meetings in September that continued to focus on building membership, developing a new core leadership group, and addressing project topics for this year.