



November 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 November to discuss project timelines, staffing, event planning, research and evaluation, fiscal monitoring, ongoing implementation strategies and partner relations. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3rd.

An ECAGS Donor Update meeting is scheduled for 11/15. The rundown of the program and lineup of speakers is being drafted.

### **I. Early Childhood Achievement Gap Solutions Update:**

#### Program Development:

GUW is exploring other screenings of the film *Resilience*, which is a documentary on adverse childhood experiences (ACES) that can impair children's ability to learn and thrive.

GUW staff is working with YMCA Early Childhood leadership to conduct a workshop on for all their staff in December. The workshop will be led by the Pre-school Instructional Coach (PSIC) and Early Childhood Expert (ECE) and focus on social-emotional development for children in pre-school.

GUW staff presented at the Greenwich Achievement Gap Roundtable on 10/23. The Director of Community Impact was asked to lead one of the workgroups around identifying community programs for the community asset mapping project. When relevant, staff will use data collected by the group to support ECAGS.

Staffing: The ECAGS program is fully staffed. One of the GPAT Parent Educators returned from a 6-week maternity leave on October 15, 2018.

Staff Training: The Pre-school Instructional Coach (PSIC) continues to attend the School Readiness Council workshops and 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: Family Centers staff sends G UW staff informal weekly updates on the program. This will continue until the next quarterly report.

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

**GPAT**-G UW will send out the next quarterly report to obtain data on the program. Family Centers is experiencing recruitment challenges. G UW staff contacted PAT Connecticut State Leader, Pam Langer, to provide additional support and resources. As a result, GPAT will raise the child maximum age eligibility from 6 months to one for interested families. As of now, GPAT has 10 families enrolled.

**PSIC**- G UW staff and the ECE met with leadership from Family Centers and the YMCA, separately, to discuss program progress after one month of service delivery. The meetings focused on:

- Clearly mapping out the roles of all early childhood consultants across all sites (G UW PSIC will not provide coaching services in Head Start classrooms because Head Start already provides funding for a coach)
- Understanding and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of an instructional coach
- The Jim Knight Instructional Coaching model
- Program successes and challenges
- Effective communication
- Confidentiality and incident reporting
- Coverage and scheduling of coaching sessions across all sites
- Budget challenges (G UW staff is working on a coverage solution to ensure 1-hour coaching services for individual teachers)

G UW program staff continues to work with administration from FC and YMCA to obtain baseline pre-school data.

G UW staff met with Jen Lau, Data Administrator, from Greenwich Public schools, to obtain student outcome data and the measurement structure for ECAGS, on 10/15. G UW staff is working with Ms. Lau to measure the impact of the ECAGS program over time.

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 October invoice and September back-up for the program in October. 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 leadership, Executive Committee and the Board have mapped out next steps to update HSTS donors and revise program implementation.

## **III. Youth Impact Programs Update:**

Throughout September, Youth Impact programs focused on planning for Reading Champions, piloting a revamped Finance Champions program, and starting-up GJrUW for the school year.

### Champions:

- **Volunteer Recruitment/Vetting Processing**  
Program staff continued to recruit and on-board new volunteers for Reading Champions and Finance Champions. At our Open House event we had 60 people attend, 20 of whom were prospective volunteers. Staff conducted outreach with community organizations for flyer postings. Staff performed background checks on all prospective and current volunteers and contacted new volunteers. Staff organized 3 training sessions and onboarded 30 new volunteers.
  
- **Data and Measurements**  
Program staff is exploring confidence measures as a measurement tool. Staff met with Joan Kelly and literacy specialists to discuss fluency measures and program improvements.
  
- **Finance Champions**  
The pilot program began on Thursday, November 1, and will go through December, and end with a Certificate Recognition event. This six-week program is designed to strengthen financial literacy skills. Eight volunteers were recruited for the program serving six children. The launch received great press in the Greenwich Times.

### Greenwich Junior United Way (GJrUW):

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

A 3 on 3 Basketball tournament to raise awareness about hunger is scheduled for 11/16 at GHS. Teams who register must bring canned foods which will be donated to a local nonprofit before Thanksgiving. A Nathaniel Witherell game night is being scheduled for

the week of 11/26. In addition, teens have setup boxes at their school locations to collect school supplies for CCI participants.