



**Children First Groton (CFG)  
Meeting Notes  
November 4, 2008  
10:00am-12:00pm**

**Members Present:** Mary Broderick, Lisa Cooney, Susan Corrice, Marie Crompton, Kimberly Dole Georgene Keller, Clarissa Miles, Dana Parfitt, Lorainne Sanborn and Kevin Trejo

Guests interested in membership: Melanie Smith-Cervera, Kristin Magnusen, Catherine Dragoo

Guests making presentations: Diane, Groton Human Services and Beatrice and Beverly, STEPS.



**CFG Objectives 2008-**

*Neighborhoods are places that support families with young children*

*Information and skill building resources are available to parents and those who work with young children*

Action items are highlighted in red, agreements and decisions are highlighted in turquoise, questions highlighted are in yellow, reminders are highlighted in pink/purple.

**Opening.** Susan reviewed the decisions made during the October Children First Groton meeting. Decisions primarily focused on support for The Community Coalition for Children, the charge of the marketing work group, and CFSECT representation. See October meeting minutes for specifics.

**Parent Education Opportunities.** Representatives from STEPS, Striving Toward Empowered Personal Success, and Groton Human Services presented information on the program and services each agency offers to parents. Both STEPS and Groton Human Services requested monetary support from Children First Groton in order to provide parent education opportunities beginning in the spring of 2009.

STEPS is an eight week empowerment for single moms program focused on topics such as: budgeting, resume writing and interview skills, healthy living and self esteem. STEPS was established in January 2008 and is a faith-based organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for women of all ages.

The Town of Groton Human Services program proposal to Children First Groton focused on the Active Parenting curriculum available for parents with children age 1 to 4 years old. The Active

Parenting program would be offered to Groton parents in three, 90 minute sessions during the spring of 2009.

Children First Groton agreed to support both agencies. Details on the programs and the extent of support will be sent under separate cover.

**Work Group Updates.**

Children First Groton has collected information from community stakeholders via telephone and face to face surveys, the community conversation and one focus group. Plans are to hold an additional three focus groups in mid November and early December. *See focus group schedule below.*

Community/Neighborhood	Date	Time	Location
Mystic/Noank/Groton Long Point	October 22	3:00pm	S.B. Butler School
Town of Groton/Poquonnock Bridge/Center Groton	October 23	10:00am	Groton Public Library
Branford Manor	October 23	6:00pm	West Side Middle School
City of Groton	November 18	11:00am	Bill Memorial Library
Family Resource Center Play Groups	December 1	11:00am	St. John's Christian Church
Military community	November 18	6:00pm	Fairview Child Development Center

Collaborative members reviewed information collected to date and were asked to respond to the following questions:

1. What surprised you about the information you reviewed?
2. What did not surprise you about the information you reviewed?
3. In order to fully understand stakeholder feedback what additional pieces of information do we need?

These questions will be discussed again as we look at all compiled information during the December 2 Children First Groton meeting.

The community conversation work group developed a follow up survey to send to all conversation participants. Kim will send the survey to all collaborative members.

The marketing work group will convene in November to tackle their new charge of developing a marketing plan for CFG. Lisa and Mary offered their resources for group consideration.

**Action Plan and Budget Review.** All 2008 receipts should be forwarded to Lisa by November 15. We will spend a portion of the December 2 CFG session reviewing budget information and determining staff needs for 2009.

**Closing.** December's meeting agenda will include: review of collected data, determination of staff support needed in 2009, and capacity building supports.

Next Meeting-  
December 2  
10:00am

Location to be determined