

Education and Humans Services Board Notes
June 9th, 2026
Presented by the Ed and HS Team

Parents as Teachers Program (PAT)

The PAT program is dedicated to supporting parents as they navigate the challenges of pregnancy and parenthood. Core program components include home visits, supportive telephone assistance, parent education groups, case management, screenings, nurse, and doula support.

Program Updates:

We are finalizing a Continuous Quality Improvement project developed with support from the Partnership for Early Education and Research focused on strengthening parent-child interactions using the PICCOLO assessment, an observational tool that assesses parenting behaviors during interactions with their children.

Home visitors were trained to administer the PICCOLO, share results with caregivers, and implement tailored strategies for families scoring below cutoff, including targeted activities, coaching during visits, and reflective conversations.

Preliminary results indicate improved parent-child interactions among families receiving tailored supports. These findings are in the final stage of review, and the program will integrate these tested practices moving forward.

Collaborations:

Our program was contacted again this year by the YWCA to participate in a community collaboration offering six weeks of swimming lessons during May and June for children ages 3–16 enrolled in our programs. A total of 44 children are currently participating in the classes. We would like to express our gratitude to the YWCA for providing this opportunity. Swimming instruction is an important skill that supports child safety, physical development, and confidence in and around water.

Client Story:

The client is a 16-year-old who enrolled in the program during her prenatal period and has been consistently engaged with her home visitor, the program nurse, and doula support. She experienced positive maternal and birth outcomes, including a full-term healthy delivery and successful initiation of breastfeeding.

She actively participates in parenting groups and has been connected to essential resources such as diapers, food, clothing, and financial assistance. The client is receptive to guidance and is applying recommended strategies.

The team referred and connected her to mental health services, where she is now actively engaged. Currently, the home visitor is supporting her in developing a school continuation plan to remain on track with her high school education.

Parents as Co-Educators (Co-Ed)

Co-Ed provides home visiting services to families with children three to five years old, utilizing the Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum. Outreach Workers connect clients to internal and external resources and promote parent/school engagement.

The Early Childhood Education & Head Start Programs (ECE) – Sites as needed

The Early Care and Education (ECE) program, NAEYC-Accredited Plus (the National Association for the Education of Young Children), serves up to 210 children six weeks through five years old, five days a week, year-round. There are four sites with 18 classrooms. This high-quality program instructs children and assesses their development to improve child outcomes. ECE supports family involvement through committee involvement and workshops throughout the year.

Program updates: In May we celebrated our dedicated educators during *National Teacher Appreciation Week*. We held a Professional Development day on May 15th where our Mental Health Consultant presented on the topic *Integrating Social-Emotional Learning into the Early Childhood Classroom*, focusing on incorporating social-emotional learning into process art. All children were photographed on Picture Day. Greenwich Health Department's nurse Lori Liss visited the preschool classrooms for *Passport to Good Health*, during which she taught about swimming safety and provided the students with individual end-of-year growth results and certificates. The children in our program learned about *Recycling, Rocks, Insects, and Child Safety*. All regular activities continued including the implementation of *Second-Step Social-Emotional* curriculum in the preschool classrooms; site visits with our Mental Health Consultant; staff coaching; *Music with Mr. Nick*; and *Music and Movement*. We have available spaces for children in our preschool classrooms.

May Overall Enrollment: 181/207

Warburg Infant & Toddler Center

May Enrollment: 54/53; Attendance: 90%

Program Update: Eight students received Birth-to-Three services, one student received at-home services with New York's Early Intervention, one student received private services, and one student began attending GPS.

Gateway Preschool:

May Enrollment: 55/56; Attendance: 89%

Program Update: One monthly and one weekly volunteer, and one daily GPS intern came to our classrooms. Eight preschool children attended GPS in the mornings to receive IEP services, four students received their IEP services on site, and three toddlers received Birth-to-Three services.

Grauer Preschool:

May Enrollment: 43/55; Attendance: 90%

Program Update: The Polar Bears class created butterflies using press painting. Four children received services in the mornings from GPS.

First Steps Preschool:

May Enrollment: 29/43; Attendance: 87%

Program Update: The Greenwich Garden club read a book about spring flowers and the children constructed foam flowers in pots. Four children received services in the mornings from GPS. One child was accepted into GPS for services in the 2026-27 school year. There are two RFAs in process with GPS.

Charter Oak Communities (COC)

Through a unique partnership with Charter Oak Communities (COC), Family Centers offers resident services throughout all twenty-one of COC properties provided by a team of nine Resident Service Coordinators (RSCs). We offer community-building along with personalized support intended to foster resident leadership and community cohesion while promoting independence and quality of life.

Program updates:

- Across all properties resident engagement was priority. Wellness, and supportive services included: Chair Zumba, Senior Fit, bingo, trivia, balloon volleyball/tennis, movie days, walking groups remained popular across sites. A new indoor bowling activity was well-received.
- Supportive & Case Management Services:
 - Several groups were held this month to register seniors for the Farmers Market nutrition program as well as the State of CT Renters Rebate program.
 - Housing stability efforts included eviction prevention assistance, utility support, rent rebate assistance, and resource navigation.

Events:

One of the most memorable highlights of this month was the successful hosting of the first-ever Senior Citizen Prom at Clinton Manor. The event brought together our older adult community members for an evening filled with joy, connection, and celebration. Attendees were dressed to the nines, highlighting their elegance and enthusiasm for this special occasion. The evening featured delicious food, lively music, dancing, and plenty of laughter, creating lasting memories for all who participated. A particularly exciting moment was the crowning of a Prom King and Prom Queen, which added to the festive atmosphere and generated tremendous excitement among attendees. The event was a wonderful opportunity to promote social engagement, celebrate our seniors, and reinforce our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for older adults in our community. The overwhelmingly positive feedback received from residents, families, and staff has already sparked interest in making this an annual tradition.



Pathways to Employment Growth (PEG)

PEG assists participants interested in entering or up-skilling in the healthcare field to obtain certification or licensure via Continuing Education programs with CSCU and other accredited institutions, as well as career readiness and employment assistance.

Program Updates:

The final group of students being supported by programming have been progressing well. All six of the CNA students have completed the course, with five of them already having passed their licensing exam and the last moving towards completing testing. The remaining four Medical Billing & Coding students have been preparing and scheduling their individual exams since completing the Asynchronous course offered by CSCC Asnuntuck. In the Dental Assistant course, five students are taking their exams while finishing their clinical internship for course completion. The Ophthalmic Assistant course is progressing well and the six students we have been supporting have only had great things to say about the instructor and have begun their clinical component. Our sole student in the Physical Therapy Aide course is scheduled to test this month for her accreditation and is confident in moving forward. Previously completed students continue their employment search with support of the program.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS)

FSS provides residents of Charter Oak Communities individualized support including vocational counseling, goal planning, educational assistance, financial literacy, and family referrals aimed at helping participants become economically independent.

Program Updates:

Through partnership with Members Credit Union, six family self-sufficiency clients with goals of becoming a first-time homeowner attended an MCU homeownership seminar. This seminar led to additional follow up and continued connection and collaboration with Connecticut Housing Finance Authority/CHFA and Housing Development Fund/HDF. All clients stated to the FSS program coordinator they have a better understanding and appreciation of what it entails to pursue this goal and hope someday soon they will have a key to their own house.

RITE Start

RITE Start provides career readiness for students attending the alternative high school programs at the Greenwich and Stamford public schools (Windrose and Anchor). Students participate in hands-on learning activities to identify, practice, and improve career competencies needed for today's market. Interested students are eligible to participate in short term work experiences to further practice skills, gain real life experience, and receive stipends for their efforts.

Program Updates:

For the spring semester, we have reached a record 23 students going out on 25 work experiences at both sites, earning over \$9,000 in stipends. Students have been working in healthcare, cell phone repair, recreation, auto repair, education, and more. Toyota of Greenwich was so pleased with one of our students at Windrose that they want to offer her a summer job. She is only 16 and does not yet have her driver's license, but we will be supporting her in the process so that she can continue her dream of becoming a high-end mechanic one day.

Here to Help (H2H)

The H2H program is a service provided by Family Centers dedicated to supporting students and their families as they navigate Stamford Public Schools and the greater community with a focus on students who are chronically absent and disengaged. Services are tailored to each student's unique needs, focusing on improving communication with schools, connection to community resources, and providing individualized support to re-engage students in school.

Program Updates:

The H2H program has joined the Stamford Prevention Council and will collaborate with community agencies, beginning with Liberation Programs in Stamford, to provide psychoeducational opportunities for parents of clients. These initiatives will focus on increasing awareness of the risks associated with substance use.

Client Story:

The client is a 14-year-old eighth-grade student who was referred to H2H due to chronic absenteeism. At enrollment, the outreach worker learned that the client had been diagnosed with multiple physical and intellectual disabilities at birth. His mother, who serves as his primary caregiver, reported experiencing significant caregiver stress and burnout related to the extensive support her son requires. As a result, she frequently kept him home from school due to concerns about his wellbeing, which were influenced by previous negative experiences with the school system and a lack of trust and connection with school personnel.

The outreach worker initiated a collaboration with the client's school team to strengthen communication and rebuild trust. Due to language and cultural barriers, the client's mother often felt misunderstood and judged, leading her to believe that school staff viewed her as

neglectful rather than as a parent navigating complex caregiving challenges. The outreach worker facilitated discussions between the family and school personnel, provided advocacy and interpretation of school processes, and helped the mother gain a clearer understanding of her son's educational environment. To further support this process, the outreach worker arranged a classroom observation for the client's mother where she witnessed the positive relationships her son had with staff, the support available to him, and the joy he experienced while participating in classroom activities.

As a result of these interventions, the client's school attendance improved significantly and contributed to progress toward goals outlined in his Individualized Education Program (IEP). The outreach worker continues to support the family through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) application process, participation in Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings, and connection to community-based support groups. Ongoing services focus on strengthening the family's support network, increasing caregiver wellbeing, and ensuring the client continues to access the educational and developmental resources necessary for long-term success.

Collaborations:

- City of Stamford Youth Services Bureau
- Stamford Public Schools
- CT Education Advocacy
- Stamford Prevention Council

Friendly Connections (FS)

Friendly Connections supports isolated, lonely, and/or homebound Fairfield County seniors. The program alleviates isolation by utilizing trained volunteers and master's-level interns called "Friendly Visitors." Friendly Visitors provide phone and virtual and home visits, and support clients navigating "end-of-life" issues, including mental health challenges or loss. They provide case management, counseling, social-emotional and crisis support, and connection to community resources.

Program Updates:

In May, Friendly Connections enrolled five new clients including residents living at Scofield Manor and Wormser Congregate and individuals residing in Stamford, Greenwich, and Westport. Friendly Connections' new volunteer started visiting clients in May. Additionally, a new intern also began in May and will be supporting clients at Scofield Manor and Wormser Congregate.

Highlights:

Friendly Connections continues to provide strong, responsive support to older adults in our community. In May, Friendly Connections began providing a biweekly music group to residents at Parsonage Cottage. Residents have enjoyed taking turns choosing a musical artist to focus on, sharing memories related to the music, or discussing their thoughts on the meaning of each song.

Friendly Connections plans to shift to monthly groups at Wormser Congregate, Scofield Manor and McKinney Terrace with a focus on structured, activity-based groups that offer choices for the residents to engage in a way that is comfortable and enjoyable for everyone. The first group of this kind is scheduled for June 17th at McKinney Terrace.

On May 5th, Friendly Connections' Outreach Worker and Director of Outreach Services attended a Nonprofit Aging Services Collaborative event in Greenwich which focused on connecting with local professionals and organizations serving older adults to share observations and trends impacting older adults and discuss ideas for collaborating with each other and improving access to support in the community. The event also provided networking opportunities with other professionals working in support of similar causes.

Collaborations:

- Parsonage Cottage
- McKinney Terrace II
- Charter Oaks Communities
- Scofield Manor
- Wormser Congregate
- Town of Westport