

Education and Humans Services Board Notes
March 24th, 2026
Presented by the Ed and HS Team

Parents as Teachers Program (OEC 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.

Events:

In February and March, PAT families were invited to attend CPR and First Aid classes. Two sessions were offered—one in English and one in Spanish—to meet the language needs of the families we serve. Both sessions were well attended, and parents learned important information and practical skills to help keep their children safe.

Program Updates:

Since joining our team in November 2025, our doula has integrated seamlessly into the program. Since her hire, she has served **12 families** and supported **7 labors and deliveries**. 100% of the mothers and babies supported through doula services experienced positive outcomes.

We are encouraged to see families actively using this service. The level of engagement highlights a clear need for doula support within our community and reinforces that adding doula services to our program was the right decision.

Client Story/Highlights:

Client is a mother of four, including two school-aged children and twin girls, and is currently expecting her fifth baby. One of the twins has a genetic syndrome resulting in multiple health challenges, including vertebral and heart defects. She spent the first two and a half years of her life hospitalized, which limited time with her family due to transportation barriers. The family faces financial hardship due to the father's seasonal employment, which reduces income during the winter months and makes it difficult to cover basic needs such as rent, food, and transportation. During the family's participation in the program, the parent educator connected client to mental health services and referred the family to resources for food, diapers, transportation support, and a childcare slot for the twins. **These connections helped stabilize the family and improve their well-being.** Most recently, the parent educator connected the family with The Umbrella Club and provided advocacy and translation assistance during the interview process. As a result, the family received \$5,000 in financial assistance to help cover rent, groceries, and transportation to medical appointments until the father's work resumes in the spring.

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.

Events:

In February, families attended a workshop with a member of United Parents and Students to learn skills on becoming advocates of their neighborhood, community, and schools, and how to create positive social change. Additionally, Co-Ed hosted and presented a workshop on Positive Discipline where parents learned age-appropriate limit setting and effective discipline skills. In April, Co-Ed will be hosting a family event at Terrys Connors ice skating rink. Children and parents will enjoy drinking hot cocoa and having fun on the ice.

Client Story:

Daniela is the mother of two young boys, ages 5 and 8. When she first enrolled in the program, her family was facing significant challenges. Daniela was unemployed, her husband was working only part-time, and the family was living in a very small apartment. At the same time, she was struggling with behavioral concerns related to her older son, which added emotional stress to an already difficult situation.

With consistent support from Co-Ed and community referrals, the family began to stabilize. Daniela secured part-time work as a manicurist, and her husband later obtained full-time employment, improving the family's financial security. In addition, her older son underwent psychological evaluations and was diagnosed with ADHD. Through guidance and education, Daniela and her husband learned how to better understand their son's diagnosis, his needs, and how to effectively support and advocate for appropriate services within the school system.

Daniela has made progress toward her goals and is building a stronger foundation for her family. Co-Ed remains committed to supporting her ongoing growth by providing educational resources using the PAT curriculum and continued parenting guidance.

Family First in Education (Family First)

Family First in Education utilizes a two-generational approach focused on parent engagement and structured after school programming. By understanding both parent and student needs, the program holistically impacts overall family wellness, academic growth in reading/math and social/emotional development.

Program Updates:

FF hired a new support specialist and currently has a clinician vacancy.

Grant Update:

FF is a recipient of a grant through the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus. As a recipient, the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven has been tasked with conducting an initiative that tracks recipients' outcomes. In early February, FF was placed on Green Support Track, as we met quality requirements that allow the Tow Youth Justice Institute to effectively use

our data. This also makes FF eligible to work with the institute on a streamlined support plan focused on growth and sustainability. FF leadership is excited to develop tools that could benefit FF in the long run.

Events & Collaborations

In honor of Black History Month, students learned about American music history through a partnership with The Blues and Beyond, a Norwalk-based organization that brings interactive education about Blues, Jazz, Rock, and R&B. The three-part weekly series ended with a performance by members of The Blues and Beyond in the beginning of March. Families attended the concert and were treated to the music of Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Bruno Mars, and more.

Last month, FF facilitated its fourth workshop for parents. The topic focused on equipping parents with ways to engage their child during the challenging times of the pre-teen years (8-11 years old). The presentation was inspired by families who expressed concerns about their child's transition into middle school. Many families attended the workshop and had the opportunity to share their experiences.



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 update: Parents and children made love bugs for a Valentine's Day craft event. We held an evening virtual parent meeting for families of Fall Kindergartners where two Greenwich Public School (GPS) staff informed the parents of the registration process and preparing their children. Seventh grade students from Brunswick School visited our preschool classrooms for two mornings to volunteer and play with the children. Greenwich Health Department's nurse Lori Liss came to the preschool classrooms for *Passport to Good Health*, during which she discussed dentist visits. February is *Women's Heart Health* month; Nurse Lori Liss held drop-in clinics for parents at all sites, where she calculated their BMIs and took blood pressure measurements to let them know of their possible risk factors. The children in our program learned about *Containers, Clothing, and Buildings*. All regular activities continued including 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.

February Overall Enrollment: 179/207

Warburg Infant & Toddler Center:

February Enrollment: 54/53; Attendance: 84%

Program Update: Classrooms completed a unit on *Seats* and learned about various types of chairs, how they are used, and how they differ, and the children were able to try out a few. Eleven students received Birth-to-Three services, three students received at home services with New York's Early Intervention, and one student received private service.

Gateway Preschool:

February Enrollment: 53/56; Attendance: 84%

Meal Counts: Breakfast: 711; Lunch: 798; Snack: 644; Total Meals: 2,153

Program Update: Hummingbird's toddlers "did the laundry" in dramatic play, hanging the "washed" doll clothes on their clothesline to dry. Seven preschool children attended GPS in the mornings to receive IEP services, three students received their IEP services on site, and two toddlers received Birth-to-Three services. GPS observed one student for possible services. One toddler received Birth-to-Three services, and one child aged out of B23 and will begin receiving GPS services this month.

Grauer Preschool:

February Enrollment: 43/55; Attendance: 88%

Meal Counts: Breakfast: 426; Lunch: 546; Snack: 523; Total Meals: 1,495

Program Update: The Polar Bears class read *The Doorbell Rang* and worked together to build a neighborhood using blocks. The Koalas created buildings using collage materials. Five children received services in the mornings from GPS.

Armstrong Court Preschool:

February Enrollment: 29/43; Attendance: 82%

Meal Counts: Breakfast: 120; Lunch: 344; Snack: 334; Total Meals: 798

Program Update: The Greenwich Garden Club read books and did a Valentine's Day craft with the children. Four children received services in the mornings from GPS. Two students are in the process of evaluation with GPS.

Literacy Volunteers (LV)

Literacy Volunteers at Family Centers (LVFC) uses the services of trained volunteers to provide free, quality English language education to adults, equipping them with the skills needed to achieve personal and occupational goals. LVFC is committed to educating families, developing a more skilled workforce, and providing educational opportunities to the county's most vulnerable populations, those living in or at elevated risk for poverty with low literacy. LVFC delivers weekly classes at four locations throughout Greenwich and Stamford and through online platforms for synchronous, remote learning.

Events:

Last month, LV students got to practice English while dancing Zumba! Our partners at Stamford Adult and Continuing Education provided the space, and we provided the instructor inspiring new connections amongst our student body.



This month 16 students participated in and successfully completed their CPR Certification through Family Centers' Care to Care program with Manager, Nathalie Tocci.



To further strengthen workforce readiness and expand digital skills instruction the LV Career Navigator offered a two-session workshop focused on creating and effectively using a LinkedIn profile. This workshop guided students through the development of a professional online presence and included step-by-step instruction on navigating the platform, building a professional network, and utilizing job search features. Targeted instruction supported learners in developing the digital competencies necessary for a modern job search.



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.

Client Highlight:

Client joined the program in hopes of transitioning to the medical field and growing within the industry. Upon completing his initial exploration on career and training areas of interest, the client decided to pursue an LPN program. Despite the client's rocky start to joining an LPN program due to issues with placement assessments, he eventually was able to test into a course with Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers.

While the program could not assist the client with his tuition due to his school of choice, he was able to get assistance in the way of support for uniforms, a laptop, gas cards, rental assistance via UniteCT (program was participation required to qualify), and car repair to ensure that he had no barriers to completing his licensure.

The client would continue to be the top student in his course up to graduation, where he would swiftly pass his NCLEX and obtain his LPN license. Shortly after working on his resume and interview skills with the support of the program, the Client would go on to obtain a role as full-time LPN staff and hold it for 90-days, earning a full program stipend payout. He continues his job as an LPN with plans to pursue RN in the future while supporting his wife's own goal of obtaining an LPN license.

Reaching Independence Through Employment (RITE)

RITE helps individuals and families attain a greater sense of self-sufficiency through career counseling, goal planning, job-skills training, and guidance throughout the job search process. RITE career counselors provide free vocational support focusing on resume' writing, refining job search skills, and job retention support.

An FSS client referred her adult daughter to the RITE program since she was having difficulty finding work. The client had been laid off from her position in May 2025 and had recently graduated from a master's program. She had been struggling for months to find employment and was worried about her ability to get a job that was related to her degree. She was also beginning to feel the toll of the financial impact and worried about her housing, as she was the main income provider for her family. The client received support in improving her resume, creating a networking plan, and adjusting her LinkedIn account. In late February, she secured an offer for a large company in NYC with a salary of \$120,000 in a project management role and will be starting her new position March 16th.

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 Update:

The program has seen an increase in the number of employer partners offering to host work experiences, which helps to broaden the types of opportunities available to students. One student is currently having a work experience at Family Centers in the Stamford office. This student is assisting with projects for the Literacy Volunteers program, while also maintaining the company library and the company food pantry. A second student is having a work experience at the PAL building in Stamford, assisting with the after-school program there. A third student is currently at Rapid Press, a print company located in Stamford that offers copy and printing services. These students have completed resumes with Nicole and will now add these new work experiences to their resumes.

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 Update:

The H2H program currently has a full caseload of 47 clients, with at least three additional referrals awaiting acceptance. Two master's-level college interns have recently begun working with H2H and will each be assigned at least two clients.

Client Story:

The client is a 15-year-old freshman in the STEPS program (therapeutic, academic program) who was referred to H2H by the Multi-tiered System of Supports specialist at Stamford High School due to school disengagement. At enrollment, the outreach worker learned that the client had experienced severe trauma, including the loss of both parents within a short period of time. While adjusting to living with his grandparents, the client then experienced the loss of his grandfather, who had been the last parental figure in his life. Although his grandmother provides a supportive and loving home environment, the client continues to exhibit the long-term effects of death, loss, and grief.

As the outreach worker developed a relationship with the client, it became evident that he could succeed academically but required support in establishing and maintaining a consistent routine. The outreach worker collaborated with the student to create a sleep schedule that prioritized both his personal interests and school responsibilities. This intervention supported the client in successfully attending and participating in the STEPS program, with only two excused absences since his transfer in November 2025. Most recently, the client expressed that he enjoys the STEPS

program and shared that he no longer looks forward to snow days, indicating increased engagement and motivation toward school.

Collaborations:

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

Screening Connecticut's Youth (SSY)

SSY is a free mental health screening program for Stamford families with children in the Stamford school system that aims to address barriers families face when seeking mental health services and other community resources. In addition to providing mental health screenings for children ages 4-17, SSY also provides case management services to families in need of addressing other social determinants of health barriers.

Events:

In our ongoing partnership with the Ferguson Library the SSY case manager (CM) serves as a touchpoint for the Stamford community twice a week (Tuesdays 2-6pm & Fridays 10am-12pm) where residents can feel safe and comfortable asking for guidance on personal struggles they are facing. The SSY CM connects with an average of 10 community members per library session and aims to provide the community with vital support for a variety of different issues. The SSY CM is also focused on connecting with the youth that frequent the library who often engage in using drugs and alcohol to educate them about the dangers of using illicit substances.

Collaborations:

The leadership of the Ferguson Library has asked the CM to participate in an upcoming Teen Night (date TBD) to speak about the importance of caring for one's own mental health and the dangers of using drugs or alcohol at a young age as there has been an influx of drug-using teens visiting the library after school since the beginning of the winter.

Intensive Family Preservation (IFP)

Through counseling and support, the Intensive Family Preservation Program (IFP) helps families resolve conflicts and improve parenting skills when there is an imminent risk of a child(ren) being removed from the home due to instances of child abuse or neglect. Family Centers partners with Family and Children's Agency of Norwalk to provide program services. The Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) provides program funding and is the sole referral source.

Program Update:

Program is fully staffed and at capacity with cases. There is currently a regional waiting list.

Client Story/Highlights:

The family consists of four members: a mother, a father, and two children under the age of eight. Both parents are young immigrants who have been working consistently to provide for their family and maintain stability within the home. The family was referred to the IFP program due to allegations of domestic violence and concerns regarding possible substance use within the household.

While in IFP, both parents demonstrated a willingness to engage with providers and expressed a strong commitment to meeting their children's needs. The family presented as caring and affectionate, with both parents actively providing daily care, supervision, and emotional support. The children appeared bonded to both parents, and their basic needs were consistently observed to be met during home visits. Services focused on assessing family functioning, providing parenting education, monitoring home safety, and addressing concerns related to conflict within the home. Parenting support included guidance on age-appropriate supervision, positive communication, establishing routines, and strategies to reduce conflict in the presence of the children. Education was also provided on the impact of parental conflict on child development and emotional well-being.

The parents were receptive to discussions about healthy communication and were encouraged to utilize community supports as needed. Although concerns were identified at the time of referral, the family has demonstrated motivation to improve overall functioning and continues to work toward maintaining a safe and stable environment for their children.

Collaborations:

IFP has been working closely with Here 2 Help and Screening Stamford's Youth to support the increased disengagement with school and mental health concerns in adolescents.

Friendly Connections (FC)

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:

A new Outreach Worker will begin on March 23rd.

Highlights:

Despite being understaffed, Friendly Connections continues to provide strong, responsive support to older adults in our community. In February, with the support of two master's level clinical interns, Friendly Connections began providing individual support and a socialization group

at Wormser Congregate in Stamford. FC was able to provide 4 groups in the last month covering topics of communication and appropriate boundaries, a painting class, and a music group.

Friendly Connections also formed a connection with Temple Sholom in Greenwich. They provided 50 activity bags for our older adults in the Friendly Connections program that included painting supplies and an activity book along with pictures or messages from the children. The residents really loved them!

Collaborations:

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

